

# Preface to the Third Edition

We are pleased to present the third edition of *Pharmacoepidemiology: An Introduction*. The text has maintained its original outline, an outline proven useful by previous readers. The third edition has been expanded to keep up with the needs of our colleagues who are using the book in teaching and applied work and those who may need an “introduction and more” in the field. We have provided more depth to the discussion in methods sections and expanded the discussion of specific applications of pharmacoepidemiology.

Pharmacoepidemiology has significantly evolved over the 5 years since the last edition, becoming more diverse in its applications. For some health disciplines it has matured as a true clinical science, providing important contributions in the preapproval drug development process. Clearly, its role has greatly evolved to a discipline involved in all aspects of drug development (Phases I–III), postmarketing surveillance (Phase IV), and outcomes research, as in the preparation of evidence-based medicine tables for practice guideline development. Pharmacoepidemiology has become deeply involved in all aspects of pharmacotherapy through its role in the study of actual drug effectiveness, safety, and pharmacoconomics.

Congruent with these developments, most chapters have been significantly updated. We have added new chapters, including one discussing observational study methodologies and others focused on approaches to data collection and outcomes research. Another new chapter outlines the latest methodology underlying the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) drug safety monitoring program. The intervening 5 years have also brought substantial scientific contributions to our understanding of actual drug experience. Some of these findings are reported in four problem-focused chapters: cardiovascular pharmacoepidemiology, psychopharmacoepidemiology, pharmacoepidemiology of asthma treatments, and actual case studies from the FDA.

*Pharmacoepidemiology: An Introduction* was the first text to define pharmacoepidemiology. We hope the third edition will continue to lead the way in further defining pharmacoepidemiology and exploring the frontiers of application for this discipline. The book has never claimed to be a complete and detailed analysis of the topic, but rather has used a series of pragmatic approaches to pharmacoepidemiology.

As always we are deeply indebted to the contributors of each of the chapters of this and prior editions. Special thanks for great skill and infinite patience are due to our publishers at Harvey Whitney Books Company, especially our co-editor in spirit Timothy E Welty PharmD. We also appreciate the hundreds of readers who provided considerable suggestions for this edition. As you use

this book in teaching, practice, or research, we hope you will share your suggestions and comments for future editions with us.

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