Ann-Sofi Duberg was born in 1957. After primary education she went to Medical School at the University in Umeå and obtained the Medical Degree in 1981. The first position was at the Lindesberg County Hospital, and since 1983 she has been employed at the Department of Infectious Diseases at the Örebro University Hospital, accomplishing a Specialist Degree in Infectious Diseases in 1989.

Already interested in viral hepatitis, the discovery of the hepatitis C virus (HCV) in 1989 and the subsequent progress of knowledge inspired her to specialize in this field. Since 1990 she has been an investigator in several multicenter clinical trials of treatment for hepatitis C and a participant in the Swedish consensus group for treatment recommendations. The interest in the epidemiology of HCV-infection resulted in a 10-year survey of HCV-infected patients at the Department of Infectious Diseases in Örebro. This raised the controversial question if lymphoma is associated with HCV, and led to the first study (Paper I), which caught her interest in research and inspired to this thesis. The studies were performed together with Associate Professor Erik Bäck, and in collaboration with colleagues at the Swedish Institute for Infectious Disease Control (SMI) and the Karolinska University Hospital.

The studies in this thesis are all of epidemiological nature, using the advantage of national registers to perform cohort studies. The study population consists of all individuals with a diagnosed HCV-infection reported to the Swedish Institute for Infectious Disease Control (SMI). From 1990 to 2006 about 43,000 HCV-infected individuals were reported. The results demonstrated a doubled risk for non-Hodgkin’s lymphoma and multiple myeloma in HCV-infected, a high risk for drug-related morbidity and mortality in young HCV-infected adults, and a very high risk for serious liver complications after longstanding HCV-infection, with an increase of inpatient care from serious liver disease in the 2000s as a result of the HCV-epidemic in the 1970s.