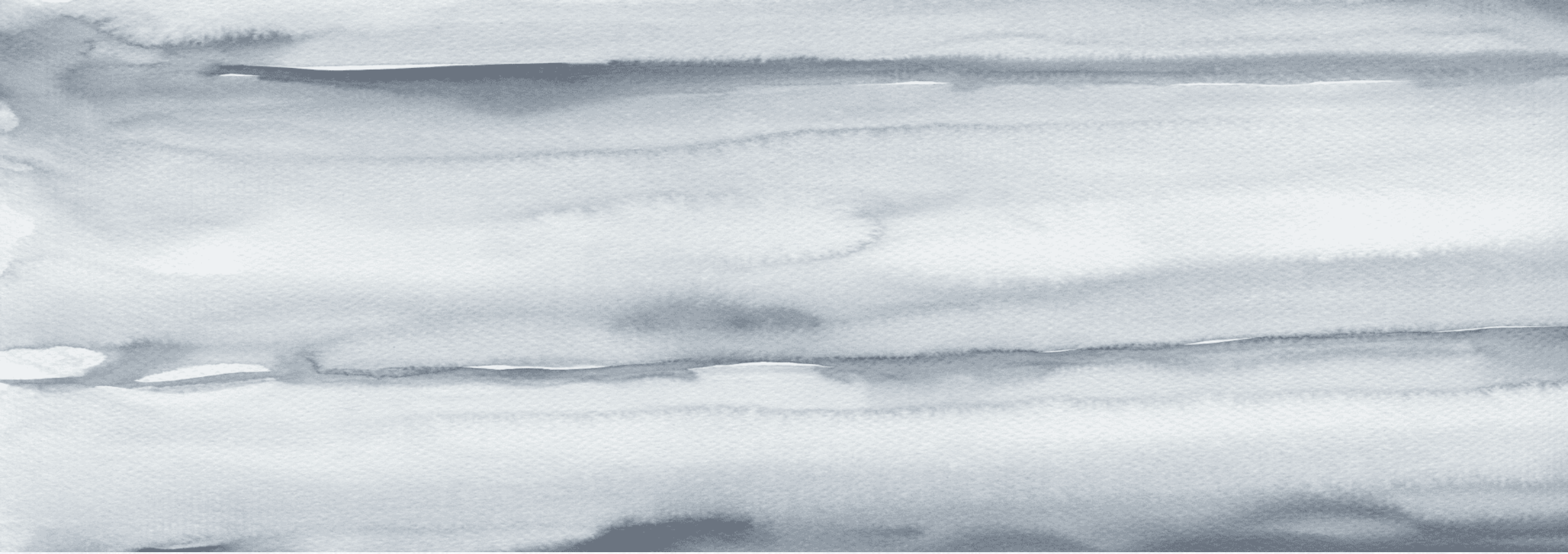

Concept of Causation

Early Theories of Disease Aetiology

Supernatural Theory of Disease

Believed illnesses were caused by supernatural forces and curses.

Theory of Humours

Suggested that imbalances in bodily fluids led to diseases.

Idea of Contagion

Associated diseases with the transfer of invisible particles from one person to another.

Germ Theory of Disease

(Disease agent - Man - Disease)

Microbiological Discoveries

Revolutionized the understanding of disease causation.

One-to-One Correspondence

Believed diseases are caused by a one-to-one relationship between a pathogen and illness.

Drawbacks of Germ Theory

Overlooks the contribution of host and environmental factors to disease.

Epidemiological Triad

Host Factors

Not everyone exposed to a pathogen will develop the disease due to other agent and environmental factors.

The host is usually a human, that harbours the disease.

Agent Factors

Introduced a comprehensive approach that combined agent, host, and environment in disease causation.

Agent means the cause of disease, may be its bacteria, virus or any other pathogen.

Environment Factors

Illustrates the interdependent nature of agent, host, environment, and time in disease transmission.

These are the surroundings and conditions that allow disease transmission.

Multifactorial Causation

Idea of Multiple Causes

Challenges the old notion of diseases caused by a single agent.

Complex Causes of Modern Diseases

Modern diseases are influenced by social, economic, cultural, genetic, and psychological factors.

Understanding Non communicable Diseases aetiology

These diseases are influenced by a variety of factors including excessive fat consumption, smoking, inactivity, and obesity.

Contributions of Epidemiology

Focus on Lifestyle and Behavior

Explores the role of lifestyle and behavior in disease causation.

Identification of multiple factors

Non communicable diseases identifies multiple factors of causation of disease, disability , injury and death.

Practical Application

Behavioural Considerations

Considers the impact of individual behavior in disease causation and prevention.

Public Health Interventions

Aims to break the link between environment, host, and agent to prevent outbreaks.

Web of Causation

Given by MacMohan and Pugh

According to this, disease never depends upon a single isolated cause rather it develops from a chain of causation in which each link is a result of complex interaction of preceding events.