



This is the age of Super-heroes and Super-villains. But not those depicted so frequently in our movies and comic books. In Middle Earth, these beings have special powers that are far more relevant to our world. Here the Hobbit introduces some that you would have probably met in the hospitals and clinics of Middle Earth.

THE EXSANGUINATOR

This is the arch-villain who is killing GPs by the dozens. He has the very powerful ability to convince employers and insurance companies that blood can be squeezed out of stone (and GPs) through the imposition of evermore unreasonable terms in managed healthcare schemes. Approach with utmost care. Super-armed and super-dangerous.

THE SWILL SITE SURFER

This is the villain who often turns up at clinics masquerading as a patient with a complaint. He has already surfed all the unreliable websites offering useless information on his complaint and does not think the doctor is any good unless the doctor agrees with what he has already learnt from all these swill sites. Has a mouse instead of a surfing board. Wanted to be dressed in shiny silver, but finally ended up being dressed in highlighted pink.

CAPTAIN CLINICAL AND ARCH-NEMESIS MAGNETO

Captain Clinical, secret identity “CYC”, is the last of his kind. He was sent to Middle Earth by his parents to save us from bad doctors when his home planet Clinical Medicine exploded. His arch-nemesis is Magneto. Not to be mistaken with the villain in X-men of the same name, this guy has the ability to order (and justify himself for doing so) an MRI for anything, including for a skin-tag in the armpit and taenia pedis.

THE ACADEMIC AVENGERS

Differential Dawn, Evidence Eve, Pathway Puff and Guideline Girl – these are the great all-girl champions of academic medicine. They have the ability to remember all the latest textbooks, differential diagnoses, evidence, guidelines and clinical pathways. Their protégé is Tiffany Tutorial, a super-on-the-ball medical student who has the super ability to obtain and attend tutorials no less than 23 times in a single day in three different hospitals. Unfortunately, their comic book was cancelled some time ago due to poor sales. They have the utmost contempt for the fringe group The Acumen Artists, the practitioners of Ye Olde Medicine as well as any believers of The Force.

CONSTRUCTOS

This is a villain who goes around our many hospitals quietly. His super-power is the ability to secretly construct expensive but useless fixtures like sculptures, water pieces, rock gardens and so on that has nothing to do with patient care. His powers have been recently curtailed by an acute shortage of essential building materials. Rumours have it that he may be tying up with another villain – The Sandman – soon.

PHARMAGIRL AND IMPLANT ANGEL

These two beautiful female super-villains are especially dangerous to male doctors. Many an unsuspecting male doctor has been lured into making poor clinical decisions at best and fatal relationships at worst due to the charms of PharmaGirl and Implant Angel. Active especially after clinic sessions and before lunchtime.

PETHIBOY

PethiBoy is an innocuous-looking young man who has the super-power to convince any A&E doctor to give him an opiate jab at least five times a week. Active especially during peak A&E periods when doctors are extra-stressed.



RED LANTERN

A renegade Green Lantern who now uses a red instead of green lantern. One of those doctors who treats STDs with no questions asked and does not ever perform disease notification.

MAJOR AMERICA

No relation to the famous Captain America, he is an evil administrator now running havoc in some of Middle Earth's largest private hospitals. This guy has a killer frisbee that beheads any local doctors who do not agree with him wholeheartedly or who does not believe in doing things "The American Way". Someone should post this guy to Iraq and encase him in oil sludge for a few decades.

LEGION OF LUNCHEON HEROES

A group of aged and retired super-heroes. They now congregate for free lunches all over the land. Rumour has it that each member has collected an average of 4,378 CME points in the last cycle.

TEAM TEAROOM

A little younger than the Legion of Luncheon Heroes, this band of heroic middle-aged super-heroes congregate in private hospital tearooms everyday. They have done so without fail for the last 21 years and have eaten massive amounts of porridge, peanuts and fried *bee hoon* without being detected by Major America. The main super-power is the ability to latch on to any rumour, half-truth and confirm or deny it by the next tea break.

HOTA HOG AND TRANSPLANT TYRANUS

HOTA Hog is really quite harmless. His special powers are minor – the ability to smell an organ available for transplant in a 10-mile radius and to convince the patient's relatives to object to the organs being transplanted. Transplant Tyranus is his nemesis.

BEAUTY BRIGADE

Laser Lass, Meso Madam and Silicone Man – these are powerful villains who paradoxically have mass appeal. The media loves them and features them incessantly. They are dedicated to the task of beguiling the masses into believing they are all ugly and need the Beauty Brigade's Help. Enforcement agencies have been relatively helpless so far. The three of them together have earned enormous wealth.



DATUK DR DOOM AND ANYHOW ANGIO

Datuk Dr Doom is a masked super-villain and very powerful. He has the ability to convince anyone that one has heart problems and needs a cardiac CT, angio or ultrasound. His sidekick is Anyhow Angio – a young shady being with the ability to perform an angio on any or no indication.

PENULTIMATE PATIENT

An essentially harmless super-villain but highly irritating. He has the amazing power to turn up at a clinic just at the right time (when the doctor and staff are dying to go home) – second last minute before official closing time.

THE MC HOPPER

No relation to the rapper MC Hammer. This young super-villain will hop from clinic to clinic and gets an MC each time without fuss.

SUPERBILL

SuperBill is a new super-hero. He has the uncanny ability to recite the entire *SMA Guideline on Fees* and its hundreds of price recommendations from memory and bill accordingly without mentioning the *Guideline* itself. No Competition Act can touch him.

IMPERIAL IMPERTURBABLE AND HIS SIDEKICK EQUANIMOS

These super-heroes will swoop in unannounced and induce calmness and order to the most "gabrah", "kan cheong" and panicky houseman and medical officer of the day. What will we do without them?

SPIDERWEB MAN

This guy is not related to Peter Parker. He is really an IT guy who likes to design and implement IT systems that make doctors' lives miserable on a daily basis. His systems are so slow and the users are waiting so long for them to work that, very soon, spiderwebs form between the users and the furniture.

FATAL FOUR

Renal Richards, Human Torched, Invisible Girl and The Thingy – not to be mistaken with the Fantastic Four. Renal Richards is the boss of the group and the Chairman of a large NGO dealing with renal diseases. His super-power is the ability to be ignorant of all things for a long time without being found out. Currently he seems more like The Invisible Man. Human Torched is the CEO of this NGO. His superpower is immolation, the ability to burn himself up (and those around him). He might be guest starring in the next episode of *Prison Break*. The Invisible Girl AKA Waltzing Matilda was invisible for a long time, waltzing in and out of this NGO undetected. The Thingy is really a character who can turn into a golden tap at any time. An entertaining group of super-villains. Now a top-selling comic book and a movie in the making. ■