

Artwork Description

I'm Isuru Priyaranga Silva, a Ph.D. student at the University of Akron, OH. I have a background in Cave Microbiology and Astrobiology.

I believe that **every microbiologist is a superhero!** We don't have to wear special **'capes**' as we already wear our **Lab coats** as our superhero wear.

Here, I converted myself into "Microbio-Man" (MM). He covers all other microbiology fields (such as bacteriology, virology, pathology, infection control, microbial drug discovery, medical microbiology related all other fields, etc.), which is impractical in real life while indicating my **cave microbiology origin/ background**. So he's not just a microbiologist in one field; he's a superhero who can do all! **His widespread broad knowledge, experience in any microbiology field, and desire to help the world cure all diseases are his superpower!**

Particularly, in this case, as a superhero, his special focus is on disease identification, control, and drug discovery against all pathogenic and infectious bacteria and viruses to cure the world. By doing that, he can *heal the world and make it a better place*! Also, this Microbio-Man is a representative icon and an honor to all microbiologists worldwide.

There are many hidden details in the artwork. Some of the key details are explained or indicated in the digital artwork itself on the **next page**. However, some extra explanations are as below.

Why are caves important?

It should be noted that caves are considered one of the most recommended places for future drug discovery (antibacterial, antiviral, parasitic, cancer, etc.). There are dozens of publications indicating its potential, and some novel drugs are already have discovered from these cave-dwelling microorganisms. This means that some of the unique native bacteria and fungi species that live in these caves may have hidden these groundbreaking novel drugs! So we have to go and discover them!

Inoculation loop/needle/ swab/ agar plates:

Microbiologists use these tools to isolate and identify any microorganisms and test different drugs against them for verity of preclinical and clinical tests and verifications. These are our weapons and tools to fight against our enemies. Also, we use these same tools to isolate and identify the beneficial microorganisms that produce the novel above mentioned drugs.

In this artwork, he symbolically uses all tools like magic wands. But, it's not magic; it's pure efforts in the microbiology laboratories. Also, there is a lot of different agar media for culturing microorganisms. This is to represent his microbiological technique and knowledge-based superpowers.

DISCLAIMER: This artwork is my original work, starting from its ideation and sketching to digital drawing. No stock images have been used.

Tools used: XP-PEN Deco 01 V2 graphic Pad and its stylus **Software:** Adobe Photoshop CC 2015 and Illustrator CC 2015.

Bats: My cave microbiology origin & as a symbol of "hidden roles" of microbiologists

Superhero Logo (MM) : Mimicking Bat shape (Cave origin identity)

