John Studebaker ERD Assignment #1 Executive Summary 9/20/01

## Tolkien Organization

Healthcare providers have had difficulties in dealing with creatures and characters involved in J.R.R. Tolkien's books since long before the Second Age of Middle Earth. Many long, exhaustive resources have been compiled throughout the ages, and yet none have proven to be of much value to the common healer. The scope of this database undertaking is to solve this heinous lack of organization and understanding when treating "persons of Tolkien" (as they prefer to be referred to).

The problem. It is simple: a healthcare provider is embarrassingly ill equipped to carry on even a simple conversation with most persons of Tolkien. If he or she is not careful, a less friendly character or creature may even attempt an assault on a well-intentioned provider for simply being rude during a patient encounter. When our healthcare provider's safety is put in jeopardy it becomes everyone's problem.

The goal. We cannot tolerate this paucity of information any longer. We must have the resources available to provider these brave healers with the information they need to effectively understand and help these Tolkienites. A database with basic information about Middle Earth and its inhabitants is key to this vision. We propose to have a simple, and yet complete information source specifically for "persons of Tolkien" that can be integrated with our patient information system, currently being developed by the finest minds in our industry. With this linking of information, a clinician can have vital information about characters during an encounter, in real time.

The proposal. A simple database consisting of 6 entities will be created. These entities will represent information about the character, how that particular character is a patient, what books he/she has been included in, what race he/she belongs to, where they are from, and what events (battles, coronations, etc.) they have been involved in. This information can then be made available to the healthcare providers whenever it is needed, just like any other piece of vital health information.

**Bottom line.** The provider is happy because he shouldn't find himself unnecessarily gaining the ire of an irksome balrog by merely not knowing what its homeland is called. The Tolkieneze will be much appreciative of not having to explain over and over again the most mundane details about their particular species, like hairy feet. Everyone wins.