

A378\_2016AbstractCohenSamuelJ

## Abstract

Doctors have always been a profession of intellect and altruism, using scientific knowledge to for the wellbeing of their fellow man. Many periods of history have created changes in the role of this prestigious profession in society. In the contemporary medical world, many changes are taking place that affect the form and function of the physician. Science Fiction is a genre of fictional entertainment with great speculative capability into the future of mankind. Its rich history in films beginning in the 20th century, and literature as early as the 16th century provides many examples in which authors have correctly acted as futurologists in accurately describing the world of the future. An analysis of physician characters in Science Fiction along with knowledge of the changes taking place in the modern medical world allow for conjecture into the future of the physician as a healthcare professional.

Honors College  
Ball State University  
Muncie, IN 47306