In 1946, the world changed forever when a visitor from outer space landed at the White Sands Missile Base, outside of Alamogordo, New Mexico. He came with a dire warning for the world about an alien retrovirus able to rewrite its host's DNA, an experiment now lost somewhere in North America. The only problem was, nobody believed him, and his story about this “wild card virus” sounded completely crazy, except it wasn’t.

When the virus was released over Manhattan, thousands of people died, while hundreds of others were... changed. Some became hideous mutant freaks, the jokers, while a rare and lucky few became aces: people endowed with super-human powers to change the world. So the saga of Wild Cards begins.

The popular Wild Cards series of shared-world novels has spanned seventeen books, with a new, eighteenth volume, Inside Straight, released in February of 2008, and two more books on the way. Edited by best-selling author George R.R. Martin, it is world turned upside-down, where alien intervention has created people with super-powers.

Now Green Ronin Publishing matches the world of Wild Cards with the award-winning Mutants & Masterminds game system in the upcoming Wild Cards Setting Sourcebook for M&M. Written by long-time series author John Jos. Miller, this 256-page, hardcover volume is the most complete guide to the world of Wild Cards, including M&M game information on all your favorite characters. For a sneak-peek, we present a look at the figure at the center of the Wild Cards world for decades, the alien visitor and “father” of the wild cards... Dr. Tachyon!

The man who became known as Dr. Tachyon landed on the night of August 23, 1946 at White Sands Missile Base in New Mexico in a spaceship like a giant wholly coral growth strung with pretty blinking lights. He trudged out to the jeep filled with rocket scientists approaching him. Because of his short size, slim build, fancy clothes, and shoulder length hair, at first they thought he was a girl. He claimed to be a be a prince from the planet Takis, which of course nobody had ever heard of, said his name was Tisianne Something Something Something Something, which nobody could pronounce, and warned them about this globe full of some deadly virus he had to get back immediately, which nobody knew anything about, and then he demanded to be taken to “this President Harry S. Truman of yours,” which of course nobody could do.

So of course they tossed him into the clink and military intelligence interrogated him for a couple of weeks. Those working directly with him soon came to believe his story, or at least elements of it, but their reports couldn’t convince any of their bosses higher up the bureaucratic food chain. It’s understandable why.

Their visitor claimed to be a member of one of the royal families from the planet Takis who ruled their world through their potent mental powers. His particular family, the Ilkazam, had been working on a secret weapon for centuries, a complex artificial virus designed to interact with the genetic makeup of each specific host to give that host potent mental or physical powers.

It was now ready for testing on a large scale, but there were still some bugs to be worked out. The virus killed the vast majority of those exposed to it and turned a lesser percentage into useless freaks. The Ilkazam clearly couldn’t test it on themselves, but they couldn’t release it on their foes, either, because it did create super-abilities in a small percentage of those infected with it. Then the Ilkazam discovered the perfect guinea pigs on a backwater planet with inhabitants genetically identical to Takkians: Earth.

But Tisianne, who came to be known as Dr. Tachyon (“Doctor,” because that’s how the scientists at White Sands all addressed each other; “Tachyon” after the name of the faster-than-light particles that propelled his ship) thought the decision to test the virus on an innocent world was ignoble. His protests were ignored, but he decided to do something about the situation. He chased the ship carrying the virus all the way to the Earth, burning out his own ship’s interstellar drive in the process. They fought, and the Takkian ship carrying the virus crashed somewhere in the eastern United States. Dr. Tachyon demanded the United States mobilize to find it, but nobody in a position to issue such orders believed his rather far-fetched story.

Until President Truman received a ransom note demanding thirty million in cash to prevent the destruction of a major American city. While the government dithered, Dr. Tod, a brilliant and unprincipled scientist, recovered the globe containing the virus from the Takkian crash site, experimented with it, discovered what it could do, and decided to use it.

The authorities couldn’t give in to Tod’s demands. Truman called on the young war hero Jetboy to stop Tod from releasing the virus over the skies of Manhattan. A spectacular aerial battle took place on September 15, 1946 between Jetboy, backed by a squadron of lesser fighter planes, and the blimp array designed by Dr. Tod. Jetboy almost
DR. TACHYON

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<td>+0</td>
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Toughness Fortitude Reflex Will
+2/+1*

Skills
Bluff 4 (+6), Computers 2 (+7), Knowledge (art) 3 (+8), Knowledge (behavioral sciences) 6 (+11), Knowledge (history) 2 (+7), Knowledge (life sciences) 13 (+18), Knowledge (technology) 6 (+11), Language 5 (English, French, German, Russian, Spanish), Medicine 13 (+18), Notice 2 (+3), Perform (dance) 2 (+4), Perform (stringed instruments) 4 (+6), Pilot 6 (+8), Sense Motive 8 (+9)

FEATS
Attack Focus (ranged) 1, Connected, Defensive Roll 1, Equipment 5 (Baby)
"Baby": Takisian starship; Colossal size, Str 55, Speed 10, Tou 13; Space Flight 8

POWERS
Mind Shield 6
Super-Senses 5 (psionic awareness; precognition, Uncontrolled)
Telepathy 9
Alternate Power: Mental Blast 4
Alternate Power: Mind Control 8 (Mental Link)

COMBAT
Attack +5 (melee), +6 (ranged), Grapple +5, Damage +0 (unarmed), Defense +6 (+3 flat-footed), Knockback -1, Initiative +2

Abilities 26 + Skills 19 (76 ranks) + Feats 8 + Powers 29 + Combat 22 + Saves 13 = Total 112

PERSONAL INFORMATION
Tisianne brant Tsara sek Halima sek Ragnar sek Omian (by his mother’s line)

WC Name: Dr. Tachyon
Occupation: Physician, geneticist

Aliases: None
Ethnicity: Takisian

Birth: circa 1900, Takis
Death: –

Height: 5 ft. 3 in.
Weight: 115 lbs.

Eyes: pale lilac
Hair: shiny copper red with gold highlights

succeeded in preventing the virus’s release, but almost wasn’t good enough. The wild card virus fell upon Manhattan like a gentle rain, and the world changed forever.

Dr. Tachyon, arriving on the scene too late to stop it, wept.

DESCRIPTION

Tachyon is a slim, slight, fanciful dresser given to overblown outfits of capes, cloaks, vests, high boots, feathered hats, fancy embroidery, and a spectrum of bright colors, all often in a single ensemble. He is given also to dramatic flights of emotionalism. He's not afraid to cry in public and is frequently overwhelmed by guilt, thinking of each and every joker as “one of mine.” He cares for his patients, but their deformities and infirmities disgust him, as such things are unknown on his world. He is immodest, arrogant, and overbearing, especially in the early years before he learns the rudiments of humility, and can be cold and unfeeling toward others.