With the raging COVID-19 pandemic, it is easy to overlook other public health issues.

population. This requires pharmaceutical companies to begin producing phage therapy treatments, and this will not happen without some reforms at the FDA.

To fight antibiotic resistance, rather than abolishing the FDA, a streamlined regulatory regime governing phage therapy should be created. To grant market exclusivity, a form of IP analogous to USDA plant variety protection (not patents) should be granted to newly discovered phages. For drug regulation, a set of rules governing the process of purifying phage therapeutic treatments should be established with a focus on safety, as opposed to both safety and efficacy. Following these rules should grant safe harbor from lawsuits, regardless of efficacy of treatment. Perhaps this could be expanded to other areas of pharmaceutical development. The goal of such a system ought to be to encourage innovation and to bring life-saving treatments to market. Currently, they are stifled by FDA regulation and IP law, but this need not be the case. Importantly, doing away with the FDA and IP may not solve the problem, but a few simple changes could. These reforms could save the lives of tens of thousands of Americans.