### 1NC – OFF

#### Counterplan Text:

#### 1. The World Trade Organization ought to be abolished.

#### 2. The member nations of the WTO ought to independently and without influence from international government eliminate patent protections for medicines

Hawley, senator, JD Yale, 20

(Josh, 5-5, https://www.nytimes.com/2020/05/05/opinion/hawley-abolish-wto-china.html)

The coronavirus emergency is not only a public health crisis. With [30 million Americans unemployed](https://www.cnbc.com/2020/04/30/us-weekly-jobless-claims.html), it is also an economic crisis. And it has exposed a hard truth about the modern global economy: it weakens American workers and has empowered China’s rise. That must change. The global economic system as we know it is a relic; it requires reform, top to bottom. We should begin with one of its leading institutions, the World Trade Organization. We should abolish it.

#### The WTO as an institution is unethical and perpetuates colonialism – solves case

Godrej 20

(Dinyar, Co-editor @ New Internationalist, 4-20, https://newint.org/features/2020/02/10/brief-history-impoverishment)

For countries that were undergoing economic ravishment by structural adjustment, the 1990s brought new torments in the form of the World Trade Organization (WTO), a club dominated by rich nations. In the name of creating a ‘level playing field’, the WTO required poorer countries to sign up to an all-or-nothing, binding set of rules, which removed protections for domestic industries and allowed foreign capital unhindered access. This was strongly prejudicial to the interests of local industries, which were not in a position to withstand foreign competition. Influence within the WTO is weighted by the size of a nation’s economy – thus even if all poorer nations joined forces to demand policy changes they would still not have a chance against wealthy nations. This trade injustice has drawn widespread protests and pressure for the WTO to reform. Meanwhile, wealthy nations are increasingly going down the route of bilateral Free Trade Agreements (FTAs). Usually negotiated in secret, the interests of their corporations are paramount in FTAs and include the ability to sue states for eye-watering sums (should they, for example, want to terminate a contract or nationalize an industry) with no provision for states to do the same. Such instruments are working to create a utopia for transnational corporations, creating a business-friendly climate, which translates as the demolition of labour protection, tax cuts for the wealthiest and a supine regulatory environment. Tax havens operated by the richest countries are home to huge sums of illicit wealth draining out of some of the poorest. Today, due to how the global economy has been engineered, for every dollar of aid sent to poorer countries, they lose 10 times as much in outflows – and that’s before one counts their losses through unfair trade rules and underpaid labour. Foreign investors take nearly $500 billion a year in profits from the Global South, and trade-power imbalances cost poorer nations $700 billion a year in lost export revenue. 7 CONCENTRATION In the 21st century wealth increasingly flows through corporate hands towards a small super-elite. In a trend that began in the 1990s, the lion’s share of equity value is being realized through squeezing workers: the classification ‘working poor’ so familiar in the Global South is now increasingly also being used in the wealthy North, where neoliberal capitalism is leading inevitably to wage erosion and work precarity, coupled with the withdrawal of state support. Inequality is rising dramatically. In 2018 the richest 26 people owned wealth equivalent to the poorest half of the world’s population. And their wealth was increasing at the rate of $2.5 billion a day. Meanwhile 3.4 billion people – nearly half the world – were living on less than $5.50 a day.

### 1NC - OFF

#### Economy’s recovering now – Delta and inflation are challenges but surmountable

Sully 8/19 - Evan Sully, 8/19/21, Reuters, U.S. leading indicator points to further economic recovery in July, https://www.reuters.com/world/us/us-leading-indicator-points-further-economic-recovery-july-2021-08-19/ WJ

(Reuters) -A gauge of future U.S. economic activity increased in July, suggesting the economy continued to expand from the recession caused by the coronavirus pandemic even in the face of a resurgence in cases fueled by the Delta variant.

The Conference Board on Thursday said its index of leading economic indicators (LEI) rose 0.9% last month to 116.0. Economists polled by Reuters had expected an increase of 0.8%.

Even though the U.S. economy is forecast to grow this year at its fastest pace since the 1980s, there are signs the recovery could be cooling off. Supply-chain bottlenecks continue to slow manufacturing growth, and consumer sentiment plummeted in early August to a decade-low as Americans gave faltering outlooks on everything from personal finances to inflation and employment.

Meanwhile, consumer price increases slowed in July, the Labor Department said last week, but inflation overall remained at a historically high level amid supply-chain disruptions as well as stronger demand for travel-related services.

"The U.S. LEI registered another large gain in July, with all components contributing positively," said Ataman Ozyildirim, the Conference Board's senior director of economic research. "While the Delta variant and/or rising inflation fears could create headwinds for the U.S. economy in the near term, we expect real GDP (gross domestic product) growth for 2021 to reach 6.0% year-over-year, before easing to a still robust 4.0% growth rate for 2022."

The LEI's coincident index, a measure of current economic conditions, rose 0.6% in July after increasing 0.4% in June.

But the lagging index increased 0.6% last month after being unchanged in June and increasing 0.8% in May.

"Even with more moderate growth in the second half of the year, the economy’s momentum remains encouraging with constraints on labor supply easing, a trove of excess savings still waiting to be drawn down, and strong vaccine numbers that will insulate the economy from the worsening health situation more so than prior waves," said Mahir Rasheed, U.S. economist at Oxford Economics.

#### Biotech is resilient and fundamentals are strong – but this trend relies on innovation and investment

Cancherini et al 21 -- Laura Cancherini is a consultant in McKinsey’s Brussels office; Joseph Lydon is an associate partner in the Zurich office, where Jorge Santos da Silva is a senior partner and Alexandra Zemp is a partner, McKinsey, What’s ahead for biotech: Another wave or low tide?, April 30, 2021, https://www.mckinsey.com/industries/pharmaceuticals-and-medical-products/our-insights/whats-ahead-for-biotech-another-wave-or-low-tide WJ

As the pandemic spread across the globe in early 2020, biotech leaders were initially pessimistic, reassessing their cash position and financing constraints. When McKinsey and BioCentury interviewed representatives from 106 biotech companies in May 2020,4 half of those interviewed were expecting delays in financing, and about 80 percent were tight on cash for the next two years and considering trade-offs such as deferring IPOs and acquisitions. Executives feared that valuations would decline because of lower revenue projections and concerns about clinical-trial delays, salesforce-effectiveness gaps, and other operational issues.

Belying this downbeat mood, biotech has in fact had one of its best years so far. By January 2021, venture capitalists had invested some 60 percent more than they had in January 2020, with more than $3 billion invested worldwide in January 2021 alone.5 IPO activity grew strongly: there were 19 more closures than in the same period in 2020, with an average of $150 million per raise, 17 percent more than in 2020. Other deals have also had a bumper start to 2021, with the average deal size reaching more than $500 million, up by more than 66 percent on the 2020 average (Exhibit 3).6

What about SPACs?

The analysis above does not include special-purpose acquisition companies (SPACs), which have recently become significant in IPOs in several industries. Some biotech investors we interviewed believe that SPACs represent a route to an IPO. How SPACs will evolve remains to be seen, but biotechs may be part of their story.

Fundamentals continue strong

When we asked executives and investors why the biotech sector had stayed so resilient during the worst economic crisis in decades, they cited innovation as the main reason. The number of assets transitioning to clinical phases is still rising, and further waves of innovation are on the horizon, driven by the convergence of biological and technological advances.

In the present day, many biotechs, along with the wider pharmaceutical industry, are taking steps to address the COVID-19 pandemic. Together, biotechs and pharma companies have more than 250 vaccine candidates in their pipelines, along with a similar number of therapeutics. What’s more, the crisis has shone a spotlight on pharma as the public seeks to understand the roadblocks involved in delivering a vaccine at speed and the measures needed to maintain safety and efficacy standards. To that extent, the world has been living through a time of mass education in science research and development.

Biotech has also benefited from its innate financial resilience. Healthcare as a whole is less dependent on economic cycles than most other industries. Biotech is an innovator, actively identifying and addressing patients’ unmet needs. In addition, biotechs’ top-line revenues have been less affected by lockdowns than is the case in most other industries.

Another factor acting in the sector’s favor is that larger pharmaceutical companies still rely on biotechs as a source of innovation. With the top dozen pharma companies having more than $170 billion in excess reserves that could be available for spending on M&A, the prospects for further financing and deal making look promising.

#### Pharma collapses without strong IP protections

Buckland 17 - Danny Buckland (award-winning journalist who writes about health, general features and news, shortlisted for the prestigious Mind Media Awards for his work covering mental health issues), April 26, 2017, “Patents are lifeblood of pharmas”, https://www.raconteur.net/legal/intellectual-property/patents-are-lifeblood-of-pharmas/ WJ

Pharmaceutical companies are staffed by ranks of attorneys, and the intellectual property (IP) specialist is now a pivotal position in the research and development (R&D) cycle that keeps a company profitable and new drugs flowing to patients.

Tighter regulatory frameworks and even tighter purse strings controlled by healthcare systems are putting the squeeze on pharma returns and limiting R&D budgets. Figures from analysts Deloitte in 2016 reported projected return on investment was at a six-year low while development costs had risen by almost a third.

The litany of market changes is vexing for the industry. The generation of blockbuster drugs, with massive returns, has ended, national healthcare budgets are receding, traditional management methods are being challenged and new players, such as electronics and software companies, are entering the arena.

“For pharmaceutical companies, the patent system is its lifeblood and it simply wouldn’t survive without it,” says Simon Wright, a patent attorney with J A Kemp and chairman of the Chartered Institute of Patent Attorneys’ life sciences committee. “The cost of getting a product to market is high and there is a high failure rate, so you are not going to get investment unless you can protect your product and innovation. Quite frankly, it would all collapse without good IP.”

#### Biopharmaceutical research is the bedrock of our economy – even minor reductions in income result in mass unemployment and butterfly effects

Sullivan 11 – Thomas Sullivan (Thomas Sullivan is Editor of Policy and Medicine, President of Rockpointe Corporation, founded in 1995 to provide continuing medical education to healthcare professionals around the world. Prior to founding Rockpointe, Thomas worked as a political consultant), July 12, 2011, Study Shows Importance of Biopharmaceutical Jobs For US Economy,” Policy and Medicine, http://www.policymed.com/2011/07/study-shows-importance-of-biopharmaceutical-jobs-for-us-economy-for-every-20-billion-loss-in-revenue.html WJ

Biopharmaceutical research companies produce the highest-value jobs, the types of jobs Americans want in the 21st century economy, the kinds of jobs that can drive future economic growth. No other sector has the ability to drive innovation, create high-quality jobs and provide new life-saving medicines for patients.

According to a recent report from the Battelle Technology Partnership Practice (TPP), “nationwide, the biopharmaceutical sector supported a total of 4 million jobs in 2009, including nearly 675,000 direct jobs. Battelle is the world’s largest non-profit independent research and development organization, providing innovative solutions to the world’s most pressing needs through its four global businesses.

TPP has an established reputation in state-by-state assessment of the biopharmaceutical sector, and has recently undertaken major impact assessment projects for the Human Genome Project, the nation’s biotechnology sector, and major bioscience organizations such as Mayo Clinic. TPP has also been active in provision of analysis to industry organizations, including the Council for American Medical Innovation, PhRMA and BIO-the Biotechnology Industry Organization.

Each job in a biopharmaceutical research company supported almost 6 additional jobs in other sectors, ranging from manufacturing jobs to construction and other building service jobs to contract researchers and child care providers. Together, this biopharmaceutical sector-related workforce received $258 billion in wages and benefits in 2009.

“Battelle also found that across all occupations involved in the biopharmaceutical sector, the average wage is higher than across all other private sector industries, due to the sector’s role as a ‘high value-added sector.” Specifically, the annual average personal income of a biopharmaceutical worker was $118,690 in 2009 as compared to $64,278 in the overall economy.

Additionally, the biopharmaceutical sector’s total economic output (including direct, indirect and induced impacts) was $918 billion in 2009. The sector generated an estimated $85 billion tax revenues in 2009—$33 billion in state and local and more than $52 billion in federal. This impact comprises $382 billion in direct impact of biopharmaceutical businesses and $535 billion in indirect and induced impacts (an output multiplier of 2.4—meaning that every $1 dollar in output generated by the biopharmaceutical sector generates another $1.4 in output in other sectors of the economy).

To put this export volume into perspective, 2010’s total biopharmaceutical exports of $46.7 billion compares favorably to other major U.S. exports including: automobiles ($38.4 billion in 2010 exports); plastics and rubber products ($25.9 billion); communications equipment ($27 billion) and computers ($12.5 billion).

In addition, the U.S. Congressional Budget Office noted that, “the pharmaceutical industry is one of the most research-intensive industries in the United States and that pharmaceutical firms invest as much as five times more in research and development, relative to their sales, than the average U.S. manufacturing firm.”

At over $105,000 in biopharmaceutical R&D per employee, the sector is way ahead of the average across all U.S. manufacturing which stands at about $10,000 per employee—and is far ahead of the second and third ranked sectors of “communications equipment” and “semiconductors, which respectively spend $63,000 and $40,000 per employee in R&D annually.

PhRMA Statement on Battelle Report

Consequently, Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America (PhRMA) President and CEO John J. Castellani issued a statement discussing the results from this report and the biopharmaceutical research sector’s impact on jobs and the American economy.

Castellani asserted that, “at a time when the U.S. is facing a jobs crisis, evidenced by the terrible employment numbers from last Friday, it is critical that our policymakers embrace dynamic and innovative business sectors such as the biopharmaceutical research sector and refrain from stifling job growth through shortsighted proposals such as government-mandated price controls in Medicare Part D.”

Specifically, the PhRMA CEO pointed to a new paper from the Battelle Technology Partnership Practice, which underscored the pharmaceutical sector’s tremendous contribution to America’s economy. Castellani recognized that, “startling potential job losses would result from undermining the business foundations of biopharmaceutical companies.”

He noted that the Battelle report estimated “that a $20 billion per year reduction in biopharmaceutical sector revenue would result in 260,000 job losses across the U.S. economy” and a $59 billion reduction in U.S. economic activity. As a result, Castellani recognized that, “as the President and Congressional leaders negotiate an important agreement on the debt ceiling and the future of the nation’s economy, it is critical that the jobs crisis is not exacerbated.”

For example, Castellani noted how “the President and some in Congress have proposed including government-mandated rebates in Medicare Part D as part of a debt ceiling agreement.” However, he recognized that “such a provision would have a dramatic negative effect on the economy and patients, and could undermine the success of the Part D program, which has very high beneficiary satisfaction and has cost far less than original government projections.”

He pointed to the “Battelle numbers, which clearly demonstrated that reducing the biopharmaceutical sector’s annual revenue by $20 billion would be a serious blow to employment.” Castellani added that, “while the research is not specific to any one policy or event, proposals being considered, such as government-mandated Part D rebates, would be expected to have revenue impact of this magnitude.”

Moreover, he noted that, “Part D is an unparalleled success, providing unprecedented access to life-saving medicines for seniors.” Accordingly, Castellani asserted that PhRMA does not “believe policies that discourage R&D and cutting-edge science and that will inevitably slow the development of needed new medicines are fair for seniors waiting for new treatments against our most challenging and costly diseases.”

Battelle Report

The Battelle Report quantifies the economic impact of the biopharmaceutical sector on the U.S. economy and jobs using input/output analysis, measures the direct and indirect impacts of the biopharmaceutical sector, and quantifies the economic impacts that would occur if biopharmaceutical revenues increase or decrease from significant changes in the business operating environment.

The report also highlights some of the functional impacts of the sector—the wide-ranging benefits provided through the biopharmaceutical sector’s contributions to enhancing human health, improving life spans and sustaining the high quality-of-life that Americans enjoy—and assesses the contributions of the biopharmaceutical sector to key areas of importance to our economy— innovation, product exports and quality of jobs produced.

The Battelle Report starts by recognizing that the biopharmaceutical sector has all of the characteristics for an ideal industry for economic growth and sustainability in the U.S. Specifically, the biopharmaceutical sector:

Grows in output and employment even in tough economic times

Provides high wage, good quality jobs

Is innovative and deploys high-technology to generate comparative advantage for U.S. companies

Generates significant exports that boost the U.S. economy

Has a strong supply chain that drives further economic growth across the economy through “multiplier effects”

Builds on America’s long-standing strengths and investment in fundamental and applied research

Encourages capital flows to sustain growth, and is profitable to provide funds for reinvestment into the research and development (R&D) cycle;

Generates federal, state and local taxes and other economic contributions that support public services

Is sustainable and not a major drain on global resources

Is geographically dispersed, providing opportunities for job creation and economic growth across many areas of the nation, not just a few selected places

Produces a product of value to society, something that improves the quality of life for humankind, including

Improved life spans (personal longevity)

Improved productivity resulting from prevention and effective management of disease and chronic conditions; and

Reductions in unnecessary hospitalizations resulting in potential cost-offsets elsewhere in the health care system.

Fundamental to major progress in human longevity, reducing the marginalization of individuals from disease and disability, and generally improving our quality-of-life, biopharmaceuticals are a unique contributor to societal and individual well-being.

Moreover, the output of the biopharmaceutical sector is highly valued by society because the sector develops and manufactures a broad-range of unique products to treat disorders and diseases that, were they to go untreated, can ruin individual quality of life, personal abilities and productivity. In many instances, biopharmaceuticals are central to helping to prevent and treat a range of public health issues, address pandemic risk and thereby support national economic security.

For example, innovation in the biopharmaceutical sector, combined with the diagnostic and treatment skills of U.S. healthcare professionals, has contributed to a lengthening of the average life span of Americans. In 1900, the expected life span of an American at birth was just 47.3 years. With the advent of more modern medicines and advanced medical knowledge, life expectancy at birth has seen a steady increase rising to 69.7 years in 1960, and 77.9 years in 2007.

In fact, the National Bureau of Economic Research reports that “there is a highly statistically significant relationship between the number of new molecular entities [drugs] approved by the FDA and increased longevity.” Furthermore, Lichtenberg found in a study of FDA data that “approval of priority-review drugs—those considered by the FDA to offer significant improvements in the treatment, diagnosis, or prevention of a disease—has a significant positive impact on longevity.”

Additionally, the American Hospital Association (AHA) notes that “advances in medicine contribute to national economic growth by helping Americans recover more quickly from injury and illness, avoid lost or ineffective work time due to flare-ups of chronic conditions, and live longer with higher quality of life.” Without effective medicines and treatments for illnesses, injuries, pain and chronic conditions, the productivity of the U.S. economy would clearly be greatly impaired. Biopharmaceuticals are a key contributor to a more productive and healthy America and U.S. economy.

Beyond direct employment in biopharmaceutical companies, the biopharmaceutical sector is the foundation upon which one of the United States’ most dynamic innovation and business ecosystems is built. A large part of the modern biomedical economy is built upon a robust foundation of biopharmaceutical companies that perform and support advanced biomedical and technological R&D, and act as the funnel and distribution engine for getting life-saving and quality-of-life-sustaining therapeutics to the marketplace.

Providing R&D impetus and funding, capital resources, technology licensing opportunities, and a sophisticated market access and distribution system, the biopharmaceutical sector is of central importance to the much broader biomedical and life sciences economy.

Fueled by private investment capital, venture capital investments, and public/private collaborations, and enabled by the U.S. open market system, the nation has been able to advance biomedical innovation, which in turn has led to new start-up companies, business growth and exports across the world.

Conclusion

Despite the tremendous success in the biopharmaceutical industry, emerging infectious diseases continue to present new challenges and a substantial volume of long-standing diseases such as cancer, diabetes, neurodegenerative diseases, psychiatric diseases, immunological diseases, etc. continue to demand novel treatments and improved therapeutics. There are millions of people suffering from diseases and disorders for which a therapy has yet to be found. The need for ongoing biopharmaceutical research and development is simply enormous.

The only way the U.S. economy can stay ahead of international competition is by using advanced R&D and innovation to drive the growth of high value-added industries. By leveraging investment in federal lab, university and industry R&D, our nation is able to produce high-value, typically technologically advanced products that the rest of the world values highly. In recent decades, life sciences have come to the fore as a leading driver of U.S. technological innovation and competitive advantage, and the biopharmaceutical sector is a key foundation of the life sciences innovation ecosystem.

#### Biopharma collapse causes economic meltdown – it’s far worse than previous recessions

Howrigon 17 -- Ron Howrigon “(President and Founder of Fulcrum Strategies. He earned a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration from Western Michigan University and a Master's in Economics from North Carolina State University, focusing in the area of Health Economics) http://www.kevinmd.com/blog/2017/01/health-care-crash-u-s-economy.html, January 19 2017, WJ

In recent history, the U.S. economy has experienced the near catastrophic failure of two major market segments. The first was the auto industry and the second was the housing industry. While each of these reached their breaking point for different reasons, they both required a significant government bailout to keep them from completely melting down. What is also true about both of those market failures is that, looking back, it’s easy to see the warning signs. What happens if health care is the next industry to suffer a major failure and collapse? It’s safe to say that a health care meltdown would make both the automotive and housing industries’ experiences seem minor in comparison. While that may be hard to believe, it becomes clear if you look at the numbers. The auto industry contributes around 3.5 percent of this country’s GDP and employs 1.7 million people. This industry was deemed “too big to fail” which is the rationale the U.S. government used to finance its bail out. From 2009 through 2014, the federal government invested around $80 billion in the U.S. auto industry to keep it from collapsing. Health care is five times larger than the auto industry in terms of its percentage of GDP, and is ten times larger than the auto industry in terms of the number of people it employs. The construction industry (which includes all construction, not just housing) contributes about 6 percent of our country’s GDP and employs 6.1 million people. Again, the health care market dwarfs this industry. It’s three times larger in terms of GDP production and, with 18 million people employed in the health care sector, it’s three times larger than construction in this area, too. These comparisons give you an idea of just how significant a portion health care comprises of the U.S. economy. It also begins to help us understand the impact it would have on the economy if health care melted down like the auto and housing industries did. So, let’s continue the comparison and use our experience with the auto and housing industries to suggest to what order of magnitude the impact a failure in the health care market would cause our economy. The bailout in the auto industry cost the federal government $80 billion over five years. Imagine a similar failure in health care that prompted the federal government to propose a similar bailout program. Let’s imagine the government felt the need to inject cash into hospital systems and doctors’ offices to keep them afloat like they did with General Motors. Since health care is five times the size of the auto industry, a similar bailout could easily cost in excess of $400 billion. That’s about the same amount of money the federal government spends on welfare programs. To pay for a bailout of the health care industry, we’d have to eliminate all welfare programs in this country. Can you imagine the impact it would have on the economy if there were suddenly none of the assistance programs so many have come to rely upon? When the housing market crashed, it caused the loss of about 3 million jobs from its peak employment level of 7.4 million in 1996. Again, if we transfer that experience to the health care market, we come up with a truly frightening scenario. If health care lost 40 percent of its jobs like housing did, it would mean 7.2 million jobs lost. That’s more than four times the number of people who are employed by the entire auto industry — an industry that was considered too big to be allowed to fail. The loss of 7.2 million jobs would increase the unemployment rate by 5 percent. That means we could easily top the all-time high unemployment rate for our country. OK, now it’s time to take a deep breath. I’m not convinced that health care is fated to unavoidable failure and economic catastrophe. That’s a worst-case scenario. The problem is that at even a fraction the severity of the auto or housing industry crises we’ve already faced, a health care collapse would still be devastating. Health care can’t be allowed to continue its current inflationary trending. I believe we are on the verge of some major changes in health care, and that how they’re implemented will determine their impact on the overall economic picture in this country and around the world. Continued failure to recognize the truth about health care will only cause the resulting market corrections to be worse than they need to be. I don’t want to diminish the pain and anguish that many people caught up in the housing crash experienced. I think an argument can be made, though, that if the health care market crashes and millions of people end up with no health care, the resulting fallout could be could be much worse than even the housing crisis.

#### Extinction

Tønnesson 15 Stein Research Professor, Peace Research Institute Oslo; Leader of East Asia Peace program, Uppsala University, 2015, “Deterrence, interdependence and Sino–US peace,” International Area Studies Review, Vol. 18, No. 3, p. 297-311

Several recent works on China and Sino–US relations have made substantial contributions to the current understanding of how and under what circumstances a combination of nuclear deterrence and economic interdependence may reduce the risk of war between major powers. At least four conclusions can be drawn from the review above: first, those who say that interdependence may both inhibit and drive conflict are right. Interdependence raises the cost of conflict for all sides but asymmetrical or unbalanced dependencies and negative trade expectations may generate tensions leading to trade wars among inter-dependent states that in turn increase the risk of military conflict (Copeland, 2015: 1, 14, 437; Roach, 2014). The risk may increase if one of the interdependent countries is governed by an inward-looking socio-economic coalition (Solingen, 2015); second, the risk of war between China and the US should not just be analysed bilaterally but include their allies and partners. Third party countries could drag China or the US into confrontation; third, in this context it is of some comfort that the three main economic powers in Northeast Asia (China, Japan and South Korea) are all deeply integrated economically through production networks within a global system of trade and finance (Ravenhill, 2014; Yoshimatsu, 2014: 576); and fourth, decisions for war and peace are taken by very few people, who act on the basis of their future expectations. International relations theory must be supplemented by foreign policy analysis in order to assess the value attributed by national decision-makers to economic development and their assessments of risks and opportunities. If leaders on either side of the Atlantic begin to seriously fear or anticipate their own nation’s decline then they may blame this on external dependence, appeal to anti-foreign sentiments, contemplate the use of force to gain respect or credibility, adopt protectionist policies, and ultimately refuse to be deterred by either nuclear arms or prospects of socioeconomic calamities. Such a dangerous shift could happen abruptly, i.e. under the instigation of actions by a third party – or against a third party. Yet as long as there is both nuclear deterrence and interdependence, the tensions in East Asia are unlikely to escalate to war. As Chan (2013) says, all states in the region are aware that they cannot count on support from either China or the US if they make provocative moves. The greatest risk is not that a territorial dispute leads to war under present circumstances but that changes in the world economy alter those circumstances in ways that render inter-state peace more precarious. If China and the US fail to rebalance their financial and trading relations (Roach, 2014) then a trade war could result, interrupting transnational production networks, provoking social distress, and exacerbating nationalist emotions. This could have unforeseen consequences in the field of security, with nuclear deterrence remaining the only factor to protect the world from Armageddon, and unreliably so. Deterrence could lose its credibility: one of the two great powers might gamble that the other yield in a cyber-war or conventional limited war, or third party countries might engage in conflict with each other, with a view to obliging Washington or Beijing to intervene.

#### Turns case - Economic decline hampers health programs and increase disease spread

Frank 18 – Robert A.University of Ottawa. [“Conflict and Disease: A Complex Relationship”, March 2018, [Lex AZ], 10.18192/riss-ijhs.v7i1.1895]

Impact of Economic Instability Financial crises hinder quality of life, **while** promoting **redistribut**ion of **funds away from areas** that are most **beneficial to citizens**. A common feature of economic crises is a rapid increase in unemployment, which **often results in** instability and mass protest (International Labour Organization, 2013). The uncertainty associated with financial loss is also a significant stressor that **can negatively impact** mental and physical health. **Throughout the economic crisis** in Greece, mental illness and suicide rates have increased significantly, while **HIV rates** have also **increased** due to intravenous drug utilization (Simou & Koutsogeorgou, 2014). Furthermore, many individuals are thrust into poverty and subsequently face the barriers associated with low socioeconomic status. Despite the **significant impact of** **economic collapse on** societal health, the **quality of healthcare** is often paradoxically sacrificed due to reallocation of limited funds, as **highlighted by** the funding cuts **to** mental health and drug abuse prevention programs in Greece during its economic struggles (Simou & Koutsogeorgou, 2014). A **society in economic crisis**, therefore, **faces a conflicting scenario with** increased demand for, but **reduced** supply of, health services.

### Case

#### Probability should be contextualized in magnitude and timeframe – otherwise, our actions would always be the safest bet

#### Winter and Leighton concedes the authority of pain/pleasure – the reason structural violence is bad is because it causes pain

#### Price 98 – we’re more particular than you: you definitely don’t solve for all structural violence or imperialism

#### Ballot shouldn’t be viewed as a referendum on mitigating oppression given the nature of debate – there has to be a loser, and in that case you would be saying one debater isn’t doing it good enough, which is incredibly violent

#### Racism being bad doesn’t answer the question of why it’s bad – conceptions of pain

#### Extinction scenarios are much more probable due to Trump – Biden hasn’t done much better – their framing cards are outdated

Javorsky, 18

Emily Javorsky, Emilia Javorsky is a Boston-based physician-scientist focused on the invention, development and commercialization of new medical therapies. She also leads an Artificial Intelligence in Medicine initiative with The Future Society (TFS) at the Harvard Kennedy School of Government. “Why Human Extinction Needs a Marketing Department.” Xconomy. January 15, 2018. <https://www.xconomy.com/boston/2018/01/15/why-human-extinction-needs-a-marketing-department/>, RJP

Experts at Oxford University and elsewhere have estimated that the risk of a global human extinction event this century—[or at least of an event that wipes out 10 percent or more of the world’s population](http://globalprioritiesproject.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/Global-Catastrophic-Risk-Annual-Report-2016-FINAL.pdf)— is [around 1 in 10](http://www.existential-risk.org/concept.pdf). The most probable culprits sending us the way of the dinosaur are mostly anthropogenic risks, meaning those created by humans. [These include](http://globalprioritiesproject.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/Global-Catastrophic-Risk-Annual-Report-2016-FINAL.pdf) climate change, nuclear disaster, and more emerging risks such as artificial intelligence gone wrong (by accident or nefarious intent) and bioterrorism. A recent search of the scientific literature through [ScienceDirect](http://www.sciencedirect.com/) for “human extinction” returned a demoralizing 157 results, [compared](http://www.existential-risk.org/concept.pdf) to the 1,627 for “dung beetle.” I don’t know about you, but this concerns me. Why is there so little research and action on [existential risks](https://nickbostrom.com/existential/risks.html)(risks capable of rendering humanity extinct)?

A big part of the problem is a lack of awareness about the real threats we face and what can be done about them. When asked to estimate the chance of an extinction event in the next 50 years, [U.S. adults in surveys reported chances ranging from 1 in 10 million to 1 in 100](https://80000hours.org/articles/extinction-risk/#fn-2), certainly not 10 percent. The awareness and engagement issues extend to the academic community as well, where a key bottleneck is a lack of talented people studying existential risks. Developing viable risk mitigation strategies will require widespread civic engagement and concerted research efforts. Consequently, there is an urgent need to improve the communication of the magnitude and importance of existential risks. The first step is getting an audience to pay attention to this issue.

That won’t be easy. Our social media-driven digital echo chambers present us with topics we already care about, so if you don’t already think about existential risk, it is unlikely you’ll come across it. Furthermore, in today’s media environment, research data must compete with a sea of misinformation, spin, and a daily deluge of “breaking” headlines. We have understandably become desensitized to alarms, especially on topics that have been sensationalized like “extinction.” We can only hear “the sky is falling” so much before we stop listening.

To succeed at getting the message across about existential risks, we need to get creative in figuring out how to capture public attention. Just presenting data will likely not be sufficient. Nor do I think the answer is to hyperbolize the evidence, as that dilutes the credibility of the conversation. We need alternative strategies.

One solution is for creative people such as designers, artists, and marketing experts to get involved, as their toolkit extends beyond analyzing data. These people are uniquely equipped to translate information about risks into human wants, needs, values, and aesthetics.

Creative depictions of existential risks are common in science fiction and film but fictional doom-and-gloom isn’t usually designed to build public outcry for change or to spur policy debate. However, translating existential risks into something that people can experience first-hand can effectively engage an audience and entice them to learn more about a topic and, hopefully, into action.

The power of such a personal, creative experience hit home with me at a dinner I attended late last year at the [World Frontiers Forum](https://www.worldfrontiersforum.org/). The dinner, called The Last Supper, was hosted by Sam Kass, a former White House chef, with a menu created by Carolina Curtin of Café ArtScience, a restaurant in Cambridge, MA. The meal featured ingredients that will likely not be available to future generations due to climate change. I was shocked to see coffee and chocolate included in this lineup of endangered ingredients. For me, these aren’t even ingredients, they’re vital food groups. The abstract concept of “climate change” was converted into a direct impact on my basic needs and desires. Imagine if every Chipotle had menu items marked that would not be available in 2075? X’s on a world map showing the areas that will no longer be able to produce your favorite Starbucks single origin brew? The message gets you thinking, and wanting to learn more.

The risk of “AI gone wrong” was similarly translated into a fun, interactive activity thanks to the creativity of game designer Frank Lantz, director of the NYU Game Center. Last year, he released an addictive video game he designed called “[Universal Paperclips](http://www.decisionproblem.com/paperclips/),” which was inspired by an AI thought experiment from Oxford philosopher Nick Bostrom. The game explores in a frightening and engaging way how programming a super-intelligent AI to do a seemingly benign task, making as many paperclips as possible, could lead to the destruction of the universe.

Another striking example is the work of Dan Borelli of Harvard’s Graduate School of Design. He led an art-based project at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s Nyanza Superfund site in his hometown of Ashland, MA, where a chemical dye manufacturing plant contaminated the groundwater and soil for years up until the 1970s. [Borelli placed colored filters on streetlights](http://www.ashlandnyanzaproject.com/thestreetlights/) that corresponded to the contamination levels in that area. Imagine driving through a town where streetlamps eerily change color, from red and orange to blue and purple. You’re likely curious and concerned once you realize the meaning.

Likely the strongest case for creativity as a tool to spur meaningful change is the effort of Tesla. The company’s creative expression comes in the form of beautiful and desirable products that also mitigate climate change risk. Tesla has shaped the future of sustainable transportation by introducing electric cars that are aesthetically and functionally superior to most fossil fuel-based models. Yes, consumers who already care about climate change will want to purchase the product, but others will want cool, sexy cars regardless of the benefits to humanity. By repositioning electric vehicles as high-end products, Tesla managed to increase awareness and put sustainable transportation on the map as a societal value.

While creativity may be able to open the door to curiosity, it must be connected to accurate information and opportunities for actionable change. Although it’s not looking good for our species, there are many ways to intervene and help prevent threats from becoming reality. We can pressure governments to enact policy changes (nuclear disarmament treaties), support triple-bottom line companies (which value environmental and social impact, not just the financial bottom line), invest in technical solutions (novel antibiotics and green energy), divest from companies contributing to risks (fossil fuels), and donate to organizations that are mitigating specific risks ([Machine Intelligence Research Institute](https://intelligence.org/)) and existential risks ([Future of Life Institute](https://futureoflife.org/) and [Future of Humanity Institute](https://www.fhi.ox.ac.uk/)). Employing creativity to raise awareness of existential risks is a vital strategy for engaging new audiences and shifting the tides towards learning and action. The future of our species depends on it.

#### **ROTB is to vote for the debater who proves the biggest consequences – anything else is self serving and arbitrary**

### Framing

#### The standard is maximizing expected wellbeing.

#### Extinction comes first!

Pummer 15 [Theron, Junior Research Fellow in Philosophy at St. Anne's College, University of Oxford. “Moral Agreement on Saving the World” Practical Ethics, University of Oxford. May 18, 2015] AT

There appears to be lot of disagreement in moral philosophy. Whether these many apparent disagreements are deep and irresolvable, I believe there is at least one thing it is reasonable to agree on right now, whatever general moral view we adopt: that it is very important to reduce the risk that all intelligent beings on this planet are eliminated by an enormous catastrophe, such as a nuclear war. How we might in fact try to reduce such existential risks is discussed elsewhere. My claim here is only that we – whether we’re consequentialists, deontologists, or virtue ethicists – should all agree that we should try to save the world. According to consequentialism, we should maximize the good, where this is taken to be the goodness, from an impartial perspective, of outcomes. Clearly one thing that makes an outcome good is that the people in it are doing well. There is little disagreement here. If the happiness or well-being of possible future people is just as important as that of people who already exist, and if they would have good lives, it is not hard to see how reducing existential risk is easily the most important thing in the whole world. This is for the familiar reason that there are so many people who could exist in the future – there are trillions upon trillions… upon trillions. There are so many possible future people that reducing existential risk is arguably the most important thing in the world, even if the well-being of these possible people were given only 0.001% as much weight as that of existing people. Even on a wholly person-affecting view – according to which there’s nothing (apart from effects on existing people) to be said in favor of creating happy people – the case for reducing existential risk is very strong. As noted in this seminal paper, this case is strengthened by the fact that there’s a good chance that many existing people will, with the aid of life-extension technology, live very long and very high quality lives. You might think what I have just argued applies to consequentialists only. There is a tendency to assume that, if an argument appeals to consequentialist considerations (the goodness of outcomes), it is irrelevant to non-consequentialists. But that is a huge mistake. Non-consequentialism is the view that there’s more that determines rightness than the goodness of consequences or outcomes; it is not the view that the latter don’t matter. Even John Rawls wrote, “All ethical doctrines worth our attention take consequences into account in judging rightness. One which did not would simply be irrational, crazy.” Minimally plausible versions of deontology and virtue ethics must be concerned in part with promoting the good, from an impartial point of view. They’d thus imply very strong reasons to reduce existential risk, at least when this doesn’t significantly involve doing harm to others or damaging one’s character. What’s even more surprising, perhaps, is that even if our own good (or that of those near and dear to us) has much greater weight than goodness from the impartial “point of view of the universe,” indeed even if the latter is entirely morally irrelevant, we may nonetheless have very strong reasons to reduce existential risk. Even egoism, the view that each agent should maximize her own good, might imply strong reasons to reduce existential risk. It will depend, among other things, on what one’s own good consists in. If well-being consisted in pleasure only, it is somewhat harder to argue that egoism would imply strong reasons to reduce existential risk – perhaps we could argue that one would maximize her expected hedonic well-being by funding life extension technology or by having herself cryogenically frozen at the time of her bodily death as well as giving money to reduce existential risk (so that there is a world for her to live in!). I am not sure, however, how strong the reasons to do this would be. But views which imply that, if I don’t care about other people, I have no or very little reason to help them are not even minimally plausible views (in addition to hedonistic egoism, I here have in mind views that imply that one has no reason to perform an act unless one actually desires to do that act). To be minimally plausible, egoism will need to be paired with a more sophisticated account of well-being. To see this, it is enough to consider, as Plato did, the possibility of a ring of invisibility – suppose that, while wearing it, Ayn could derive some pleasure by helping the poor, but instead could derive just a bit more by severely harming them. Hedonistic egoism would absurdly imply she should do the latter. To avoid this implication, egoists would need to build something like the meaningfulness of a life into well-being, in some robust way, where this would to a significant extent be a function of other-regarding concerns (see chapter 12 of this classic intro to ethics). But once these elements are included, we can (roughly, as above) argue that this sort of egoism will imply strong reasons to reduce existential risk. Add to all of this Samuel Scheffler’s recent intriguing arguments (quick podcast version available here) that most of what makes our lives go well would be undermined if there were no future generations of intelligent persons. On his view, my life would contain vastly less well-being if (say) a year after my death the world came to an end. So obviously if Scheffler were right I’d have very strong reason to reduce existential risk. We should also take into account moral uncertainty. What is it reasonable for one to do, when one is uncertain not (only) about the empirical facts, but also about the moral facts? I’ve just argued that there’s agreement among minimally plausible ethical views that we have strong reason to reduce existential risk – not only consequentialists, but also deontologists, virtue ethicists, and sophisticated egoists should agree. But even those (hedonistic egoists) who disagree should have a significant level of confidence that they are mistaken, and that one of the above views is correct. Even if they were 90% sure that their view is the correct one (and 10% sure that one of these other ones is correct), they would have pretty strong reason, from the standpoint of moral uncertainty, to reduce existential risk. Perhaps most disturbingly still, even if we are only 1% sure that the well-being of possible future people matters, it is at least arguable that, from the standpoint of moral uncertainty, reducing existential risk is the most important thing in the world. Again, this is largely for the reason that there are so many people who could exist in the future – there are trillions upon trillions… upon trillions. (For more on this and other related issues, see this excellent dissertation). Of course, it is uncertain whether these untold trillions would, in general, have good lives. It’s possible they’ll be miserable. It is enough for my claim that there is moral agreement in the relevant sense if, at least given certain empirical claims about what future lives would most likely be like, all minimally plausible moral views would converge on the conclusion that we should try to save the world. While there are some non-crazy views that place significantly greater moral weight on avoiding suffering than on promoting happiness, for reasons others have offered (and for independent reasons I won’t get into here unless requested to), they nonetheless seem to be fairly implausible views. And even if things did not go well for our ancestors, I am optimistic that they will overall go fantastically well for our descendants, if we allow them to. I suspect that most of us alive today – at least those of us not suffering from extreme illness or poverty – have lives that are well worth living, and that things will continue to improve. Derek Parfit, whose work has emphasized future generations as well as agreement in ethics, described our situation clearly and accurately: “We live during the hinge of history. Given the scientific and technological discoveries of the last two centuries, the world has never changed as fast. We shall soon have even greater powers to transform, not only our surroundings, but ourselves and our successors. If we act wisely in the next few centuries, humanity will survive its most dangerous and decisive period. Our descendants could, if necessary, go elsewhere, spreading through this galaxy…. Our descendants might, I believe, make the further future very good. But that good future may also depend in part on us. If our selfish recklessness ends human history, we would be acting very wrongly.” (From chapter 36 of On What Matters)

#### Biological death is the worst evil

Paterson 03 – Department of Philosophy, Providence College, Rhode Island. (Craig, “A Life Not Worth Living?”, Studies in Christian Ethics, <http://sce.sagepub.com>)

Contrary to those accounts, I would argue that it is death per se that is really the objective evil for us, not because it deprives us of a prospective future of overall good judged better than the alter- native of non-being. It cannot be about harm to a former person who has ceased to exist, for no person actually suffers from the sub-sequent non-participation. Rather, death in itself is an evil to us because it ontologically destroys the current existent subject — it is the ultimate in metaphysical lightening strikes.80 The evil of death is truly an ontological evil borne by the person who already exists, independently of calculations about better or worse possible lives. Such an evil need not be consciously experienced in order to be an evil for the kind of being a human person is. Death is an evil because of the change in kind it brings about, a change that is destructive of the type of entity that we essentially are. Anything, whether caused naturally or caused by human intervention (intentional or unintentional) that drastically interferes in the process of maintaining the person in existence is an objective evil for the person. What is crucially at stake here, and is dialectically supportive of the self-evidency of the basic good of human life, is that death is a radical interference with the current life process of the kind of being that we are. In consequence, death itself can be credibly thought of as a ‘primitive evil’ for all persons, regardless of the extent to which they are currently or prospectively capable of participating in a full array of the goods of life.81 In conclusion, concerning willed human actions, it is justifiable to state that any intentional rejection of human life itself cannot therefore be warranted since it is an expression of an ultimate disvalue for the subject, namely, the destruction of the present person; a radical ontological good that we cannot begin to weigh objectively against the travails of life in a rational manner. To deal with the sources of disvalue (pain, suffering, etc.) we should not seek to irrationally destroy the person, the very source and condition of all human possibility.82

#### Pleasure and pain are intrinsically valuable. People consistently regard pleasure and pain as good reasons for action, despite the fact that pleasure doesn’t seem to be instrumentally valuable for anything.

Moen 16 [Ole Martin Moen, Research Fellow in Philosophy at University of Oslo “An Argument for Hedonism” Journal of Value Inquiry (Springer), 50 (2) 2016: 267–281] SJDI

Let us start by observing, empirically, that a widely shared judgment about intrinsic value and disvalue is that pleasure is intrinsically valuable and pain is intrinsically disvaluable. On virtually any proposed list of intrinsic values and disvalues (we will look at some of them below), pleasure is included among the intrinsic values and pain among the intrinsic disvalues. This inclusion makes intuitive sense, moreover, for there is something undeniably good about the way pleasure feels and something undeniably bad about the way pain feels, and neither the goodness of pleasure nor the badness of pain seems to be exhausted by the further effects that these experiences might have. “Pleasure” and “pain” are here understood inclusively, as encompassing anything hedonically positive and anything hedonically negative.2 The special value statuses of pleasure and pain are manifested in how we treat these experiences in our everyday reasoning about values. If you tell me that you are heading for the convenience store, I might ask: “What for?” This is a reasonable question, for when you go to the convenience store you usually do so, not merely for the sake of going to the convenience store, but for the sake of achieving something further that you deem to be valuable. You might answer, for example: “To buy soda.” This answer makes sense, for soda is a nice thing and you can get it at the convenience store. I might further inquire, however: “What is buying the soda good for?” This further question can also be a reasonable one, for it need not be obvious why you want the soda. You might answer: “Well, I want it for the pleasure of drinking it.” If I then proceed by asking “But what is the pleasure of drinking the soda good for?” the discussion is likely to reach an awkward end. The reason is that the pleasure is not good for anything further; it is simply that for which going to the convenience store and buying the soda is good.3 As Aristotle observes: “We never ask [a man] what his end is in being pleased, because we assume that pleasure is choice worthy in itself.”4 Presumably, a similar story can be told in the case of pains, for if someone says “This is painful!” we never respond by asking: “And why is that a problem?” We take for granted that if something is painful, we have a sufficient explanation of why it is bad. If we are onto something in our everyday reasoning about values, it seems that pleasure and pain are both places where we reach the end of the line in matters of value.

#### Theory first – determines the validity of substance. Prefer util:

#### A] Ground – every impact functions under util whereas other ethics flow to one side exclusively. Kills fairness since we both need arguments to win and

#### B] Topic lit – most articles are written through the lens of util because they’re crafted for policymakers and the general public who take consequences to be important, not philosophy majors. Key to fairness and education – the lit is where we do research and determines how we engage in the round.

### Advantage

#### None of this is reverse causal – just because vaccine imperialism causes people in the Global South to be oppressed doesn’t mean removal of vaccine imperialism will stop them from being oppressed

#### Imperialism is a much larger structural issue that the aff has no game on – even post-plan, larger countries will still have more access to facilities and resources to help their populations

#### **No solvency – implementation would be extremely vague, financially devastating, and faces numerous barriers**

Sauer 21 [Hans Sauer is Deputy General Counsel and Vice President for Intellectual Property for the Biotechnology Innovation Organization (BIO), a major trade association representing more than 1,000 biotechnology companies from the medical, agricultural, environmental, and industrial sectors. Mr. Sauer holds a M.S. degree in biology from the University of Ulm in his native Germany, a Ph.D. in neuroscience from the University of Lund, Sweden, and a J.D. degree from Georgetown University Law Center, where he serves as adjunct professor.] April 19, 2021, “Waiving IP Rights During Times of COVID: A ‘False Good Idea’,” IPWatchdog, <https://www.ipwatchdog.com/2021/04/19/waiving-ip-rights-during-times-of-covid-a-false-good-idea/id=132399/>, VM

“It should be clear from the foregoing that there are many practical problems with this proposal: Even if it were to pass out of the WTO, the waiver would still have to be implemented under the national laws of the WTO member countries. No explanation has been provided as to how up to 164 countries would be expected to quickly amend multiple statutes in their legal codes, or which form these amendments would take. Curiously, close to half of the waiver-supporting countries are already exempt from TRIPS anyway, and are effectively demanding to be free of rules that don’t apply to them. The most likely result of the proposed waiver would be a chaotic global patchwork of national laws that would linger at various stages of national implementation for years after the end of the pandemic. Due to the breadth and vagueness of the proposal, it would be impossible for IP rightholders to understand which products or services would lose IP protection in which country, or for how long – and little faith can be had in assurances that a waiver would be targeted and time-limited. Especially with regard to the critical category of trade secret or proprietary information, manufacturing know-how, clinical regulatory data packages and proprietary cell lines and other biological materials that are proposed to be shared, the waiver would in no way be time-limited. Proprietary information and materials cannot be un-disclosed or un-shared once they have been made public; they would simply lose their protection forever. One wonders whether Congressional proponents of the TRIPS Waiver have given any thought as to how it could be implemented in U.S. law. There is no mechanism in U.S. law for simply waiving vested IP rights. Amendments to the federal patent, copyright, food and drug, and other federal statutes would need to be attempted; trade secret protections under 50 state laws overridden; and the waiver’s interference with the IP and confidentiality provisions of myriad existing private contracts would need to be sorted out. As a result, the Federal Government would have to assume unforeseeable and potentially colossal financial liability. And because the waiver is intended for the benefit of foreign developing nations, the legality of any attempt at U.S. domestic implementation would be doubtful, as Congress has no authority to expropriate U.S. property to benefit foreign countries. It is of course possible that Congressional proponents of the waiver are merely engaging in virtue-signaling, without any intention of ever implementing anything. But nonetheless, the waiver is certain to invite similar legislative train wrecks in other countries that aspire to the rule of law, and it is perplexing how little forethought seems to have gone into the proposal.”

#### Waiver greenlights counterfeit medicine and increases vaccine hesitancy – turns case.

Conrad 5-18 John Conrad 5-18-2021 "Waiving intellectual property rights is not in the best interests of patients" <https://archive.is/vsNXv#selection-5353.0-5364.0> (president and CEO of the Illinois Biotechnology Innovation Organization in Chicago.)//Elmer Recut VM

The Biden's administration's support for India and South Africa's proposal before the World Trade Organization to temporarily waive anti-COVID vaccine patents to boost its supply will fuel the development of counterfeit vaccines and weaken the already strained global supply chain. The proposal will not increase the effective number of COVID-19 vaccines in India and other countries. The manufacturing standards to produce COVID-19 vaccines are exceptionally complicated; it is unlike any other manufacturing process. To ensure patient safety and efficacy, only manufacturers with the proper facilities and training should produce the vaccine, and they are. Allowing a temporary waiver that permits compulsory licensing to allow a manufacturer to export counterfeit vaccines will cause confusion and endanger public health. For example, between 60,000 and 80,000 children in Niger with fatal falciparum malaria were treated with a counterfeit vaccine containing incorrect active pharmaceutical ingredients, resulting in more than 100 fatal infections. Beyond the patients impacted, counterfeit drugs erode public confidence in health care systems and the pharmaceutical industry. Vaccine hesitancy is a rampant threat that feeds off of the distribution of misinformation. Allowing the production of vaccines from improper manufacturing facilities further opens the door for antivaccine hacks to stoke the fear fueling vaccine hesitance.

#### **That kills solvency.**

O’Reilly 21 [Eileen Drage O'Reilly, We’re racing to vaccinate before a “monster” COVID variant arrives, 5-6-2021,Axios,https://www.axios.com/covid-vaccination-monster-variants-9864a16b-2cd4-4e7f-9373-6393b769e22f.html, 9-4-2021 amrita]

**Slow global COVID-19 vaccination rates are raising concerns that worse variants of the coronavirus could be percolating, ready to rip into the world before herd immunity can diminish their impact**. Why it matters: The U.S. aims to at least partially vaccinate 70% of adults by July 4, a move expected to accelerate the current drop of new infections here. But **variants are the wild card, and in a global pandemic where only about 8% of all people have received one dose, the virus will continue mutating unabated.** "There's been hyper-accelerated evolution of the virus in recent months. The virus was kind of stable for 10 months, and then it started getting into this accelerated evolution. Now, the real question is, is there any way for it to get any worse?" — Eric Topol, founder and director, Scripps Research Translational Institute How it works: **Viruses mutate and selective pressure can favor those mutations that transmit easier in the population or that better escape human's innate immunity,** says Sarah Cobey, associate professor of ecology and evolution at the University of Chicago. "We're seeing both right now," she says. **It's unclear if SARS-CoV-2 will evolve in the long term as the type of virus that branches out into multitudes of variants that coexist or if it will have more of a replacement pattern**, Cobey adds. Where it stands: The CDC currently says there are five variants of concern and eight variants of interest in the United States. Two variants of concern — New York and California — may be dropping off and "on their way to extinction," Topol says. Three variants raise more worries — those originally discovered in the U.K. (B.1.1.7), Brazil (P.1) and South Africa (B.1.351) — partly because "they accrued many mutations, over a dozen, almost instantaneously," says Josh Schiffer, an infectious disease expert at Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center. **These three variants show varying levels of increased infectiousness, particularly B.1.1.7. Plus, P.1 and B.1.351 may be more able to evade the immune system or vaccination properties, Schiffer adds,** although more data is needed. The CDC is closely watching several versions of B.1.617, a variant first detected in India that may be linked to the surge in cases there now. "**We were lucky because we vaccinated ahead of the onslaught [of the U.K. strain]. Otherwise we would have been in trouble. That's the superspreader strain**," Topol says. **Schiffer agrees partial herd immunity is causing the level of new infections in the U.S. to drop despite the highly infectious B.1.1.7's prevalence**. "In the absence of vaccination, it's very likely that many places in the United States would look exactly like India right now with the new variants." "We're clearly seeing really pronounced signals of positive selection for increased transmissibility and what looks like some amount of immune escape," although this was not unexpected, Cobey adds. What to watch: **"Rapid vaccination is critically important. ... Even with partial protection you can achieve higher degrees of herd immunity," Schiffer says. "When I think of herd immunity, I don't think of it as an all-or-none phenomenon. I think of it as a dimmer switch." "The factories for generating new variants are areas that are getting hit very hard. If there is a new variant that's terrible — that ruins 2022 and brings us back to very dark times — it's almost a guarantee that it's percolating in an area of the world that's getting hit very hard now," Schiffer says.** "The one thing that could happen, but hasn't happened yet, is to have a superspreader variant like B.1.1.7 with very powerful immune evasion. ... Will we see that? I don't know. Hopefully we'll never see that monster," Topol says. Yes, but: The U.S. appears to be experiencing a drop in vaccination demand, despite the spread of variants. A new study in The New England Journal of Medicine shows the importance of people getting their second dose in fighting off the variants — but some Americans are not taking this step. And foreign nations are struggling to get access to vaccines, with the U.S. only now starting the process to fill in the vaccine diplomacy void. The bottom line: "It's just next to impossible to predict what's going to happen next," Schiffer says. **"I think the likelihood that we would have a variant that emerges that is worse than the ones we're dealing with now is much higher if you have a higher circulating number of infections**," such as what's happening in Latin America, India and Asia.

#### Restricting IP protections undermines innovation and profit margins – turns case by precluding vaccine distribution to developing countries.

Cueni 12/10 [(Thomas, Director General of IFPMA, chair of the AMR Industry Alliance, Industry Co-Chair APEC Biopharmaceutical Working Group on Ethics, MA in politics from the London School of Economics) “The Risk in Suspending Vaccine Patent Rules,” New York Times, 12/10/2020] TDI

It is unclear how suspending patent protections would ensure fair distribution. But what is clear is that if successful, the effort would jeopardize future medical innovation, making us more vulnerable to other diseases.

Intellectual property rights, including patents, grant inventors a period of exclusivity to make and market their creations. By affording these rights to those who create intangible assets, such as musical compositions, software or drug formulas — people will invent more useful new things.

Development of a new medicine is risky and costly. Consider that scientists have spent decades — and billions of dollars — working on Alzheimer’s treatments, but still have little to show for it. The companies and investors who fund research shoulder so much risk because they have a shot at a reward. Once a patent expires, generic companies are free to produce the same product. Intellectual property rights underpin the system that gives us all new medicines, from psychiatric drugs to cancer treatments.

In trying to defend these rights, the drug industry has made mistakes in the past that have lost people’s trust. More than 22 years ago, for example, a group of drug companies sued the South African government for trying to import cheaper anti-AIDS drugs amid an epidemic. With price standing between patients and survival, the suit, which the companies eventually dropped, was a terrible misjudgment. The current situation is not parallel.

Several major drug companies, including AstraZeneca, GlaxoSmithKline and Johnson & Johnson, have pledged to offer their vaccines on a not-for-profit basis during the pandemic. Others are considering differential pricing for different countries

. As of last month, four major pharmaceutical companies had already agreed to eventually produce at least three billion vaccine doses for low- and middle-income nations, according to one analysis.

In South Africa and India, pharmaceutical companies are already working with local partners to make their vaccines available. Johnson & Johnson has entered into a technology transfer partnership for its candidate vaccine with South Africa’s Aspen Pharmacare, and AstraZeneca has reached a licensing agreement with the Serum Institute of India to develop up to 1 billion doses of its vaccine for low and middle-income countries.

Companies can afford to license patents for free, or sell drugs at cost, precisely because they know that their intellectual property will be protected. That’s not a flaw in the system; it’s how the system ensures that pharmaceutical research will continue to be funded.