

Fourth-quarter biotech job picture

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The number of advertised biotech and pharma sector jobs remained stable through the fourth quarter of 2012, compared with the previous quarter (*Nat. Biotechnol.* 30, 1149, 2012). There was a noticeable increase in LinkedIn's total job listings for the top 25 biotech companies (568 up from 351) and top 10 pharma companies (586 up from 468), whereas the other databases we track returned similar totals from the third quarter (Tables 1 and 2).

Notable operations expansions during the quarter include Novo Nordisk's announcement of a \$100-million facility to be built in Beijing. The new R&D center will be located in the Zhongguancun Life Science Park. The new facility will employ 130–200 people. WuXi AppTec opened a biologics manufacturing plant in Wuxi, China, said to be the first cGMP facility in China. WuXi had earlier formed a 50/50 joint venture with AstraZeneca's MedImmune unit to develop and commercialize MedImmune's MEDI5117 in China for autoimmune and inflammatory diseases. The monoclonal antibody (mAb) against interleukin (IL)-6 is in phase 1 testing in the US and Europe. Finally, Novartis announced it will build a \$500-million facility in Singapore to support clinical and commercial production of biologics, including mAbs for cancer, autoimmune and respiratory indications. Construction will begin this quarter, with completion slated for the end of 2016.

Sanofi announced it will restructure its French operations, which it said could lead to the loss of about 900 positions by 2015. Under the

restructuring, the company's Montpellier site will become a strategic center focused on development, whereas its Vitry/Alfortville and Chilly-Mazarin/Longjumeau sites will increase research activities. The plan also includes a new global center of excellence for infectious diseases in Lyon. And in 2014 Merck & Co. will relocate its global headquarters to Summit, New Jersey, as part of the company's ongoing program to consolidate its real estate footprint and lower operating costs after its 2009 merger with Schering-Plough. The approximately 2,000 employees at the current Whitehouse Station headquarters will move to either the Summit facility or other nearby facilities.

Other notable fourth-quarter downsizings within the life sciences industry are shown in Table 3.

Table 2 Advertised job openings at the ten largest pharma companies

Company ^a	Number of employees	Number of advertised openings ^b		
		Monster	LinkedIn	Naturejobs
Johnson & Johnson	119,200	743	40	0
Bayer	106,200	20	47	3
GlaxoSmithKline	103,483	4	27	0
Sanofi	99,495	156	7	0
Novartis	98,200	15	27	8
Pfizer	86,600	0	66	14
Roche	78,604	2	8	14
Abbott Laboratories	68,697	0	228	0
AstraZeneca	67,400	51	36	8
Merck & Co.	59,800	9	100	0
Total		1,000	586	47

^aData obtained from MedAdNews. ^bAs searched on Monster.com, LinkedIn.com and Naturejobs.com, 10 January 2013. Jobs may overlap.

Table 1 Who's hiring? Advertised openings at the 25 largest biotech companies

Company ^a	Number of employees	Number of advertised openings ^b		
		Monster	LinkedIn	Naturejobs
Monsanto	21,400	0	4	0
Amgen	17,250	13	77	0
Life Technologies	11,000	1	12	792
Genzyme	10,100	28	10	0
CSL	9,992	2	55	0
Bio-Rad Laboratories	6,880	16	6	0
bioMérieux	6,378	22	6	0
PerkinElmer	6,200	34	9	0
Novozymes	5,655	0	1	0
Biogen Idec	4,850	3	34	0
IDEXX Laboratories	4,800	12	10	0
Biocon	4,478	0	0	0
WuXi AppTech	4,465	0	0	0
Shire	4,183	64	14	0
Celgene	4,182	6	30	109
Gilead Sciences	4,000	0	23	0
Cephalon	3,726	0	149	0
Qiagen	3,587	0	3	0
Endo Pharmaceuticals	2,947	0	12	0
Actelion	2,441	2	0	0
Illumina	2,100	86	6	1
Vertex Pharmaceuticals	1,691	3	8	0
Biotest Pharmaceuticals	1,627	0	57	0
Dendreon	1,497	0	42	0
Albany Molecular Research	1,421	0	0	0
Total		286	568	902

^aAs defined in *Nature Biotechnology's* survey of public companies (29, 585–591; 2011). ^bAs searched on Monster.com, LinkedIn.com and Naturejobs.com, 10 January 2013. Jobs may overlap.

Table 3 Selected biotech and pharma downsizings

Company	Number of employees cut	Details
AstraZeneca	~400	Plans to reduce headcount by 39% to about 625 in Germany, citing the country's mandatory 16% drug rebates and pricing freeze, and changes in the pharma's product portfolio. The cuts would come primarily from sales force and internal support staff.
Aveo Pharmaceuticals	~45	Will reduce headcount by 17% to about 235 and will reduce spending on undisclosed early-stage research programs ahead of the potential US launch of tivozanib for renal cell carcinoma.
BioCryst Pharmaceuticals	38	Will reduce headcount by 50% to 37 following major pipeline setbacks and the mutual termination of a proposed merger with Presidio Pharmaceuticals.
BiolInvent International	20	For the second time since June, announced plans to reduce headcount, this time by 29% to 48. The company will focus R&D on its cancer programs.
GenVec	23	Will reduce headcount by 30% from 77 to conserve cash. The cuts will allow the company to fund operations through 3Q14.
GlaxoSmithKline	97	Announced a second round of layoffs of employees from its Human Genome Sciences subsidiary. In August, GSK announced the first round of layoffs of 114 Human Genome Sciences employees.
QLT	27	Will reduce headcount by 42% to 38 following the sale of ophthalmic product Visudyne (verteporfin) to Valeant Pharmaceuticals.
Targacept	32	Reduced headcount by 38% to 43 and closed its laboratory operations at the end of 2012.

Source: BioCentury.

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