Third-quarter biotech job picture

Michael Francisco

The number of advertised biotechnology and pharmaceutical sector jobs fell slightly in the three job databases tracked by *Nature Biotechnology* (Tables 1 and 2) in the third quarter of 2013. Compared with the second quarter (*Nat. Biotechnol.* 31, 766, 2013), listings for the top 25 biotech companies dipped on Monster, LinkedIn and Naturejobs. Pharma company listings were mixed: Monster added 144 advertised positions across the top ten, and LinkedIn fell by 257 positions.

Our list of biotech companies ranked by number of full-time employees has been updated: gone are fourth-ranked Genzyme (now a wholly owned subsidiary of Sanofi, based in Paris) and Dendreon (ranked 24th); the new additions are Regeneron Pharmaceuticals, based in Tarrytown, New York, ranked 21st, and Hong Kong-based CK Life Sciences at 25th.

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	21,500	2	18	0
Amgen	18,000	17	96	0
CSL	10,515	2	22	0
Life Technologies	10,000	2	200	690
PerkinElmer	7,500	43	38	0
Bio-Rad Laboratories	7,380	53	15	0
bioMerieux	7,285	19	21	1
WuXi PharmaTech	6,817	0	26	0
Biocon	6,253	0	10	0
Biogen Idec	5,950	1	51	4
Novozymes	5,865	0	8	1
IDEXX Laboratories	5,400	0	34	0
Shire	5,367	4	115	0
Gilead Sciences	5,000	0	64	0
Celgene	4,700	20	54	288
Endo Pharmaceuticals	4,629	0	10	0
Qiagen	3,999	0	6	17
Actelion	2,433	5	2	0
Illumina	2,400	79	16	1
Vertex Pharmaceuticals	2,200	3	11	0
Regeneron Pharmaceuticals	1,950	10	51	3
Biotech Pharmaceuticals	1,727	0	48	0
Alexion Pharmaceuticals	1,373	5	61	0
Albany Molecular Research	1,329	0	0	0
CK Life Sciences	1,278	0	0	0
Total		265	977	1,005

^aAs defined in *Nature Biotechnology's* survey of public companies (*Nat. Biotechnol.* 31, 697–703; 2013). ^bAs searched on Monster.com, LinkedIn.com and Naturejobs.com, 10 October 2013. Jobs may overlap.

In July, Hamburg, Germany-based Evotec announced that instead of the relocation of its chemistry subsidiary Evotec India, planned for June 2014, it would cease operations at the facility, located in Thane, India, and transfer all Indian chemistry operations to its facility in Abingdon, UK. The company pointed to an increasing requirement to operate closer to the principal R&D laboratories of its major customers as well as some cost savings associated with the consolidation. Other notable third-quarter downsizings within the life-science 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
Novartis	127,724	91	143	9
Johnson & Johnson	126,600	760	122	6
Sanofi	111,974	79	16	0
GlaxoSmithKline	99,488	0	66	1
Pfizer	91,500	1	251	28
Abbott Laboratories	91,000	0	1	0
Merck & Co.	83,000	9	45	0
Roche	82,089	0	21	9
Bayer HealthCare	55,300	0	9	11
AstraZeneca	51,700	49	39	12
Total		989	713	76

^aData obtained from *FiercePharma*. ^bAs searched on Monster.com, LinkedIn.com and Naturejobs.com, 10 October 2013. Jobs may overlap.

Table 3 Selected biotech and pharma downsizings

Company	Number of employees cut	Details
Array BioPharma	50	Reduced headcount, mainly from its drug discovery organization, by 20% to about 200.
Aveo Pharmaceuticals	140	Reduced headcount by 62% to about 86 to focus on clinical development of tivozanib for colorectal and breast cancer, for which it is in Phase II testing.
Evotec	120	Reduced headcount through the closure of its chemistry subsidiary, Evotec India, in Thane, India.
Ocera Therapeutics	17	Will reduce headcount through the closure of its facility in Sherbrooke, Quebec, effective 11 November.
Rigel Pharmaceuticals	30	Reduced headcount by 18% to around 137 conserve cash and focus on the completion of three lead clinical programs. The cuts will come mostly from drug discovery.
Sequenom	75	Reduced headcount to save about \$10 million annually.
Vical	47	Reduced headcount by 39% to about 74 after discontinuing development of velimogene aliplasmid.

Source: *BioCentury*.

Michael Francisco is a Senior Editor at *Nature Biotechnology*.