

## Fourth-quarter biotech job picture

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In the final quarter of 2013, the number of advertised biotechnology and pharmaceutical sector jobs rose slightly in two of the three job databases tracked by *Nature Biotechnology* (Tables 1 and 2). Compared with the third quarter (*Nat. Biotechnol.* 31, 1053, 2013), listings on LinkedIn rose slightly and were mixed on Monster.

GlaxoSmithKline said it will invest £85 million (\$137.2 million) in a new manufacturing facility in India, creating 250 jobs. The facility is scheduled to open in 2017; however, a final site has not been determined. GSK also announced a £25 million (\$40.5 million) investment to expand its manufacturing site in Montrose, Scotland, part of a £530 million (\$859.2 million) spend announced in 2012 to boost UK manufacturing.

Several companies announced large job cuts in the fourth quarter. Merck announced it would cut 8,500 employees in addition to the 7,500-job

cut announced in 2011. In addition, Teva said it would reduce its worldwide headcount by about 5,000, or 10%, to accelerate cost reductions first announced in 2012. And as a result of a decline in the sales of Incivek (telaprevir) for HCV infection, Vertex announced a reduction of 370 employees—15% of its workforce. Other notable third-quarter downsizings within the life-science industry are shown in Table 3.

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

Company <sup>a</sup>	Number of employees	Number of advertised openings <sup>b</sup>		
		Monster	LinkedIn	Naturejobs
Monsanto	21,500	0	13	0
Amgen	18,000	41	157	0
CSL	10,515	0	1	0
Life Technologies	10,000	3	200	50
PerkinElmer	7,500	22	42	0
Bio-Rad Laboratories	7,380	31	7	0
bioMerieux	7,285	33	22	0
WuXi PharmaTech	6,817	0	6	0
Biocon	6,253	0	11	0
Biogen Idec	5,950	0	51	0
Novozymes	5,865	0	14	0
IDEXX Laboratories	5,400	3	39	0
Shire	5,367	2	128	0
Gilead Sciences	5,000	2	64	0
Celgene	4,700	1	105	0
Endo Pharmaceuticals	4,629	0	5	0
Qiagen	3,999	0	9	0
Actelion	2,433	14	0	0
Illumina	2,400	9	3	0
Vertex Pharmaceuticals	2,200	1	5	0
Regeneron Pharmaceuticals	1,950	71	50	0
Biotest Pharmaceuticals	1,727	0	44	0
Alexion Pharmaceuticals	1,373	0	51	0
Albany Molecular Research	1,329	0	0	0
CK Life Sciences	1,278	0	0	0
Total		235	1,027	50

<sup>a</sup>As defined in *Nature Biotechnology's* survey of public companies (*Nat. Biotechnol.* 31, 697–703; 2013). <sup>b</sup>As searched on Monster.com, LinkedIn.com and Naturejobs.com, 10 January 2014. Jobs may overlap.

**Table 2 Advertised job openings at the ten largest pharma companies**

Company <sup>a</sup>	Number of employees	Number of advertised openings <sup>b</sup>		
		Monster	LinkedIn	Naturejobs
Novartis	127,724	66	139	2
Johnson & Johnson	126,600	1,000+	106	0
Sanofi	111,974	283	13	0
GlaxoSmithKline	99,488	3	381	1
Pfizer	91,500	0	208	0
Abbott Laboratories	91,000	1	7	0
Merck & Co.	83,000	1	48	0
Roche	82,089	0	189	0
Bayer HealthCare	55,300	0	10	0
AstraZeneca	51,700	45	90	0
Total		1,399	1,191	3

<sup>a</sup>Data obtained from *FiercePharma*. <sup>b</sup>As searched on Monster.com, LinkedIn.com and Naturejobs.com, 10 January 2014. Jobs may overlap.

**Table 3 Selected biotech and pharma downsizings**

Company	Number of employees cut	Details
Amarin	~55	Reduced headcount by 50% to reduce operating expenses after an FDA advisory committee decided against a label expansion for its Vascepa icosapent ethyl.
Ariad	160	Will reduce its US headcount by 40% and temporarily suspended marketing and distribution of leukemia drug Iclusig (ponatinib) owing to reports of risk for arterial thrombotic events.
Boston Scientific	1,100–1,500	Will reduce headcount worldwide to improve operational efficiency and support growth investments. Will transfer select device manufacturing operations from its facilities in Fremont and San Jose, California, to a facility in Costa Rica.
Eisai	~130	Will restructure and reduce headcount in the US and EU, consolidating small-molecule process development in Japan and India and ceasing related functions at its site in Andover, Massachusetts.
Sangart	76	Ceased operations by the end of the year after it was unable to secure another source of funding. In 2013, Sangart's lead compound MP40X missed the primary endpoint in a phase IIb trial to treat lactic acidosis caused by hemorrhagic shock.
454 Life Sciences	100	Roche's high-throughput DNA sequencing subsidiary will reduce headcount over the next three years before phasing out its product line in mid-2016. Roche said it would establish a dedicated sequencing unit to manage the company's sequencing business.

Source: *BioCentury*.

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