

## Second-quarter biotech job picture

Michael Francisco

During the second quarter of 2015, Shanghai-based WuXi PharmaTech began construction of a biologics manufacturing facility in Wuxi City that will be the largest in China when it opens in January 2017. The plant will be used for “near-term clinical and long-term commercial” production of biologics, according to the company. In addition, WuXi announced plans to build a cell therapy manufacturing facility in Philadelphia to produce chimeric antigen receptor T (CAR T) cells and other cancer immunotherapies. The plant is scheduled to come on line in mid-2016.

Alnylam Pharmaceuticals (Cambridge, MA, USA) has negotiated a “right of first offer” on Genzyme’s headquarters in Kendall Square, after Genzyme announced it would vacate the office tower when its lease expires in 2018. Alnylam’s move marks the company’s anticipated expansion

and transition from research company to commercial business in the coming years. It currently has about 300 employees but expects to add 50 to 75 more by the end of the year.

Bristol-Myers Squibb will expand a facility in San Francisco next year and open a new research site in Cambridge, Massachusetts, in 2018. Also by 2018, it will close research sites in Wallingford, Connecticut, and Waltham, Massachusetts, relocate 200 employees to Cambridge and move 500 employees to a new location in Connecticut. The company also will relocate 40 scientists from Seattle to San Francisco.

Advertised biotech and pharma sector jobs in the job databases tracked by *Nature Biotechnology* during the second quarter of 2015 are shown in **Tables 1** and **2**. Other downsizings within the life sciences 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	294	8	0
Amgen	18,000	664	499	26
CSL	10,515	203	25	0
Life Technologies	10,000	0	250	1,838
PerkinElmer	7,500	62	39	0
Bio-Rad Laboratories	7,380	140	8	0
bioMerieux	7,285	77	22	0
WuXi PharmaTech	6,817	46	26	0
Biocron	6,253	0	0	0
Biogen	5,950	563	41	0
Novozymes	5,865	0	3	0
IDEXX Laboratories	5,400	79	127	0
Shire	5,367	994	391	0
Gilead Sciences	5,000	21	375	16
Celgene	4,700	386	201	256
Endo Pharmaceuticals	4,629	82	20	0
Qiagen	3,999	60	94	0
Actelion	2,433	12	3	0
Illumina	2,400	0	251	0
Vertex Pharmaceuticals	2,200	179	103	0
Regeneron Pharmaceuticals	1,950	212	30	0
Biotest Pharmaceuticals	1,727	0	2	0
Alexion Pharmaceuticals	1,373	196	81	0
AMRI	1,329	44	3	0
CK Life Sciences	1,278	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>		<b>4,314</b>	<b>2,602</b>	<b>2,136</b>

<sup>a</sup>As defined in *Nature Biotechnology*’s survey of public companies (31, 697–703, 2013). <sup>b</sup>As searched on Monster.com, LinkedIn.com and Naturejobs.com, 14 April 2015. 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	1,000+	173	1
Johnson & Johnson	126,600	1,000+	1,285	3
Sanofi	111,974	1,000+	877	7
GlaxoSmithKline	99,488	68	0	22
Pfizer	91,500	663	62	2
Abbott Laboratories	91,000	608	372	2
Merck & Co.	83,000	463	3	1
Roche	82,089	434	27	5
Bayer HealthCare	55,300	27	40	2
AstraZeneca	51,700	678	265	12
<b>Total</b>		<b>5,941+</b>	<b>3,104</b>	<b>57</b>

<sup>a</sup>Data obtained from *FiercePharma*. <sup>b</sup>As searched on Monster.com, LinkedIn.com and Naturejobs.com, 14 April 2015. Jobs may overlap.

**Table 3 Selected biotech and pharma downsizings**

Company	Number of employees cut	Details
Allergan	300	Closing a manufacturing facility in Iceland that was part of Actavis before the companies merged but will retain other corporate and R&D functions in Iceland, comprising around 400 staff.
Celladon	25	Cut 17 of its 34 employees in April after AAV1/SERCA2a (Mydicar) missed the primary endpoint in a phase IIb trial to treat advanced heart failure. In June, cut the remainder of its R&D staff, or about half of the remaining employees, after the board unanimously agreed to seek a sale of the company or its assets and/or a liquidation in lieu of a partnership.
GlobImmune	NA	Will cut the majority of its staff to save cash and will seek strategic alternatives after its GS-4774 missed the primary endpoint in a phase II trial to treat chronic hepatitis B viral infection.
Transgene	120	Will terminate and outsource pharma development and bio-manufacturing capabilities to focus on translational R&D and its clinical portfolio.

Source: *BioCentury*. NA, not available.

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