

Academic partnerships 2015

Brady Huggett

The number of disclosed preclinical partnerships (excluding straight licensing deals) for academic institutions in 2015 was similar to 2014's (236 versus 237 deals) but 150 fewer than in 2012, when deal making was at its peak. Since then, the availability of partnering money has decreased, and consortia have become less popular. Similar to last

year, Texas's and California's expansive public university systems dominate this list (Table 1), with the former replacing the latter at the top. The most active pharma or big biotech in deal making was GlaxoSmithKline with 9 public deals (Fig. 1); AstraZeneca, which recorded 18 deals in 2014, added another seven in 2015.

Table 1 Academic partnerships 2015

University	Partners	Terms
University of Texas (12 deals)	MD Anderson Cancer Center (MDACC), Adimab	Antibody discovery collaboration with Adimab
	MDACC, Boehringer Ingelheim	Develop medicines for pancreatic ductal adenocarcinoma
	MDACC, CytomX Therapeutics	Research Probody-enabled chimeric antigen receptor (CAR) natural killer cell therapies
	MDACC, Theraclone Sciences	Launched OncoResponse, an immuno-oncology antibody discovery company
	MDACC, Collectis	Develop cellular immunotherapies against different types of liquid tumors
	MDACC, Esperance	Develop EP-100 for ovarian cancer; collaborate on EP-100 in breast cancer
	MDACC, Exact Sciences	Collaboration on a blood-based lung cancer screening test
	MDACC, HTG Molecular Diagnostics	Two-year sponsored research agreement on gene expression assays
	MDACC, Astellas Pharma	Collaboration on h8F4 technology, a humanized monoclonal antibody
	MDACC, NanoString	Develop assay based on NanoString's nCounter Analysis System, in part for immuno-oncology
	MDACC, Amgen	Evaluate Amgen's bispecific T-cell engager (BiTE) antibody constructs
University of California (8 deals)	UC Davis, New York Blood Center	Manufacture stem cell lines for disorders such as Parkinson's, Alzheimer's and Huntington's
	UC Irvine, Biocept	Evaluate biomarkers detected from blood-based and invasive tissue biopsies from metastatic cancers
	UC Los Angeles, Bristol-Myers Squibb (BMS)	Collaboration on BMS' Immuno-Oncology Rare Population Malignancy research program
	UC QB3, Calico	Conduct research into longevity and age-related diseases
	UC San Diego, GlaxoSmithKline	Collaboration to eradicate cancer stem cells, treat leukemia
	UC San Francisco, BioCision	Advance cell therapy for organ transplantation and diabetes
	UC San Francisco, Cisco	Develop an interoperability platform for sharing healthcare information
	UC San Francisco, SeraCare Life Sciences	License to use trisomy 21 (T21), trisomy 18 (T18) and trisomy 13 (T13) trophoblast cell line material
University of Pennsylvania (4 deals)	WuXi NextCODE	Combine Penn's viral vector production with WuXi AppTec
	Cypher Genomics	Collaborate on CurePSP-funded study in progressive supranuclear palsy
	RegenXBio	Licensing deal from University of Pennsylvania and University of Minnesota to develop treatments for mucopolysaccharidosis type I (MPS I) and MPS II
	PTC Therapeutics	Collaborate on orphan disease research
Harvard (3 deals)	Eli Lilly, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute	Three-year agreement on preclinical and early-stage cancer compounds
	AstraZeneca, Harvard Stem Cell Institute	Five-year collaboration to create human beta cells from stem cells
	Ipsen, Harvard University	Collaborate on neuroendocrine tumors, neuromuscular disorders, and platform technologies

Also with three deals: Johns Hopkins University and University of Southampton. Source: BCIQ: BioCentury Online Intelligence.

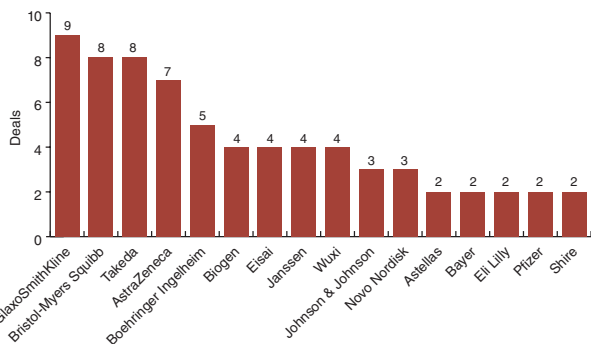


Figure 1 The most-active pharmas and big biotechs with academic or research institute partners. Source: BCIQ: BioCentury Online Intelligence.

First Rounders Podcast:

Daniel Cohen

Daniel Cohen is chairman and CEO of Pharnext. He was also co-founder of CEPH, Genethon and Millennium, and an early leader in the genomics field. His talk with *Nature Biotechnology* covers the industrialization of genomic sequencing, his part in founding Millennium and why the conductor has the most difficult job in an orchestra.



<http://www.nature.com/nbt/podcast/index.html>

Brady Huggett is Business Editor at Nature Biotechnology.