



CAREER FEATURE

Fourth-quarter biotech job picture

A quarterly snapshot of job expansions, reductions and availability in the biotech and pharma sectors.

Construction and expansion plans by biotech and pharma companies continued on into the fourth quarter of 2021, spurred on by increased manufacturing demand. Roche gene therapy subsidiary Spark Therapeutics announced plans to invest at least \$575 million in a state-of-the-art gene therapy innovation center at Drexel University's campus in Philadelphia. The 500,000-square-foot facility will house hundreds of gene therapy developers and serve as a Roche global center of excellence for gene therapy manufacturing. Construction is scheduled to begin in the fourth quarter of 2022.

Hilleman Laboratories, a joint venture of Merck & Co. and Wellcome Trust, announced it will open a vaccine and biologics development and manufacturing hub in Singapore. Comprising a current good manufacturing practices facility and a state-of-the-art R&D facility which began operations in April 2021, Hilleman Labs will invest up to \$58 million in operations, infrastructure and capacity building over the next five years.

Novo Nordisk said it will invest \$2.5 billion in three new facilities and the expansion of a fourth to increase its manufacturing capacity in Kalundborg, Denmark. Expected to be completed in 2027, the expansion will add 400 full-time employees.

Meanwhile, GlaxoSmithKline announced a massive downsizing of its office space in Philadelphia and Research Triangle Park, North Carolina in a nod to the COVID-19 pandemic-induced 'new normal'. The company said they expect at most 50% of their 660 employees in Philadelphia and 1,300 employees at Research Triangle Park to come to the office on a daily basis. In Philadelphia, GSK is relocating from its Navy Yard offices to the FMC Tower in University City, a reduction of 75% in square footage. The company is also moving its offices from Research Triangle Park to downtown Durham by June, downsizing its space by almost 90%.

Advertised biotechnology and pharmaceutical sector jobs in the job databases tracked by *Nature Biotechnology* grew slightly in the fourth quarter of 2021 (Tables 1 and 2) compared with the previous quarter (*Nat. Biotechnol.* **39**, 1475, 2021). □

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

Company ^a	Number of employees	Number of advertised openings ^b		
		Indeed	LinkedIn	Biospace
Amgen	24,300	697	734	741
Gilead Sciences	13,600	471	886	601
bioMérieux	12,800	137	29	0
Biocon	12,609	0	0	0
IDEXX	9,300	223	224	0
Regeneron Pharmaceuticals	9,123	638	860	679
Biogen	9,100	311	338	0
Illumina	7,800	418	419	0
Novozymes	5,903	22	4	0
BeiGene	5,300	154	476	0
Opko Health	5,269	16	1	0
Exact Sciences	4,800	242	302	0
GenScript Biotech	4,601	25	8	0
Alexion Pharmaceuticals	3,837	197	192	0
BGI Genomics	3,778	9	5	0
Evotec	3,572	83	77	48
Vertex Pharmaceuticals	3,400	305	310	0
Endo Pharmaceuticals	3,397	0	31	0
Innovent Biologics	3,279	11	10	28
BioMarin Pharmaceutical	3,059	130	20	117
Gan & Lee Pharmaceuticals	2,934	6	6	0
Myriad Genetics	2,700	112	117	2
Junshi Biosciences	2,453	0	0	0
Alkermes	2,245	40	77	0
Emergent BioSolutions	2,200	198	199	200
Total		4,445	5,325	2,416

^aAs defined in *Nature Biotechnology's* survey of public companies (<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41587-021-00973-w>). ^bAs searched on Indeed.com, LinkedIn.com and Biospace.com, 7 January 2022. Jobs may overlap.

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

Company ^a	Number of employees	Number of advertised openings ^b		
		Indeed	LinkedIn	Biospace
Johnson & Johnson	132,200	2,137	2,579	0
Abbott Laboratories	107,000	2,108	1,623	500
Novartis	105,800	478	463	70
Roche	101,500	555	1,337	0
Bayer	100,600	611	575	0
Sanofi	100,400	1,569	815	9
GlaxoSmithKline	99,400	1,150	1,133	0
Pfizer	88,300	653	599	615
Merck & Co.	71,000	404	465	0
AstraZeneca	70,600	876	173	0
Total		10,541	9,762	1,194

^aData obtained from Statista. ^bAs searched on Indeed.com, LinkedIn.com and Biospace.com, 7 January 2022. Jobs may overlap.

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