

Fourth-quarter biotech job picture

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The fourth quarter of 2010 saw another hiring dip in the biotech and pharmaceutical sectors, as seen in the three representative job databases tracked by *Nature Biotechnology* (Tables 1 and 2). Compared with the third quarter (*Nat. Biotechnol.* **28**, 1218, 2010), large-cap companies advertising fewer job openings vastly outnumbered those with more positions to fill.

Both Sanofi-aventis and Roche announced reductions as part of plans to streamline operations and reduce costs. Sanofi-aventis will cut 1,700 jobs or about 25% of its US pharmaceutical operations division, whereas Roche said it would restructure and reduce head count by 4,800 to about 77,200, with most of the cuts coming from sales, marketing and manufacturing.

Roche also announced the discontinuation of several R&D programs, including RNAi research at sites in Europe and the US.

Among US biotechs, Biogen Idec and Genzyme announced head count reductions of 650 and 392, respectively. However, Bangalore, India-based Biocron announced plans to invest \$161 million to establish a biomanufacturing and R&D facility at Bio-XCell, a biotech R&D park in Iskandar, Malaysia. The facility, expected to be operational by 2014, will focus on biosimilar and biopharmaceutical manufacturing.

Table 3 shows additional selected third quarter downsizings within the life science industry.

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

Company ^a	Number of employees	Number of advertised openings ^b		
		Monster	Biospace	Naturejobs
Monsanto	22,900	1	0	170
Amgen	17,100	6	0	0
Genzyme	12,000	56	25	0
CSL	10,300	0	0	0
Life Technologies	9,000	31	0	0
PerkinElmer	8,800	33	0	0
Bio-Rad Laboratories	6,600	9	22	1
bioMérieux	6,300	7	0	0
Millipore	6,100	52	29	0
Novozymes	5,122	0	0	0
IDEXX Laboratories	4,800	8	0	0
Biogen Idec	4,750	13	0	24
Shire	3,875	117	0	0
Gilead Sciences	3,852	0	18	0
WuXi PharmaTech	3,773	0	0	0
Biocon	3,673	0	0	0
Qiagen	3,500	0	0	0
Cephalon	3,026	0	0	0
Celgene	2,813	36	2	0
Actelion	2,200	5	2	0
Biotest	1,834	0	6	0
Illumina	1,781	48	22	2
Amylin Pharmaceuticals	1,500	12	0	0
Vertex Pharmaceuticals	1,427	22	0	6
Elan Pharmaceuticals	1,321	6	2	0

^aAs defined in *Nature Biotechnology's* survey of public companies (**28**, 793–799, 2010). ^bAs searched on Monster.com, Biospace.com and Naturejobs.com, 11 January 2011. Jobs may overlap.

Table 2 Advertised job openings at the ten largest pharma companies

Company ^a	Number of employees	Number of advertised openings ^b		
		Monster	Biospace	Naturejobs
Johnson & Johnson	119,200	949	1	1
Bayer	106,200	136	10	0
GlaxoSmithKline	103,483	5	0	0
Sanofi-aventis	99,495	0	0	0
Novartis	98,200	96	31	8
Pfizer	86,600	0	53	46
Roche	78,604	20	28	3
Abbott Laboratories	68,697	5	0	65
AstraZeneca	67,400	64	0	3
Merck & Co.	59,800	0	3	0

^aData obtained from *MedAdNews*. ^bAs searched on Monster.com, Biospace.com and Naturejobs.com, January 11, 2011. Jobs may overlap.

Table 3 Selected biotech and pharma downsizings

Company	Number of employees cut	Details
Abbott Laboratories	~3,000	Will restructure and reduce head count by 3% to about 90,000 following its acquisition of the pharmaceutical business of Solvay.
Acceleron	57	Cutting 40% of its workforce, down from 140 employees.
AMAG Pharmaceuticals	68	Will reduce head count by 24% to save cash after reporting additional details on previously announced safety concerns associated with its anemia drug Feraheme ferumoxytol injection.
Charles River	300	Will cut 4% of its 8,500-person workforce, close a leased satellite facility in Laval, Quebec and consolidate discovery and imaging services operation in Michigan with its larger facility in North Carolina.
Enzo Biochem	Not available	Has restructured and reduced head count, primarily at its clinical labs and life sciences divisions, to streamline operations and conserve cash.
Genmab	33	Will reduce head count by 15% to 180 to account for reduced workload following the restructuring of the ofatumumab program with GlaxoSmithKline and its plan to partner zalutumumab.
Halozyne Therapeutics	33	Will restructure and reduce head count by 24% to 105 to reduce expenses.
MediGene	52	Will restructure and reduce head count by 49% to about 55 to save cash and focus on seeking a partner for its EndoTAG-1.
Palatin Technologies	20	Will reduce head count by about 50% and discontinue discovery research activities to focus on bremelanotide and PL-3994.
SemBioSys Genetic	Not available	Has reduced head count by an undisclosed number and will pursue one or more strategic initiatives, including a sale or merger, partnering or selling its assets, a significant restructuring and recapitalization or a wind-down of the company.
Rosetta Genomics	14	Will restructure and reduce head count by 20% to 58 to reduce expenses.

Source: *BioCentury*.

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