Second-quarter biotech job picture

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Hiring numbers in the biotech and pharmaceutical sectors held steady in the second quarter of 2011, as seen in three representative job databases tracked by *Nature Biotechnology* (Tables 1 and 2). Compared with the first quarter of 2011 (*Nat. Biotechnol.* 29, 460, 2011), Shire (Dublin) leads the list of job listing increases, with Amylin (San Diego), Monsanto (St. Louis), PerkinElmer (Waltham, MA, USA) and Vertex Pharmaceuticals (Cambridge, MA, USA) following. On the pharma side, China remains in the spotlight as new listings in the Naturejobs database shows Pfizer (New York) seeking to increase its personnel in that country, following the trend set by GlaxoSmithKline (London) and AstraZeneca (London) last quarter.

On the financial side, Pricewaterhouse-Coopers reports that venture capital in the life sciences jumped by 37% during the second quarter. But a closer look at the numbers shows that “biotechnology investing declined by 9% in dollars and dropped 24% in deals year-over-year, with \$1.2 billion going into 116 deals” (see <http://www.pwc.com/us/life-sciencesmoneytree>). The rise in investment is due partly to an increase in exit activity, which allows venture funds to achieve liquidity in their portfolios and enables them to make additional funds available to support the rest of their portfolios.

Table 3 shows selected third-quarter downsizings within the life sciences 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	194
Amgen	17,100	15	0	0
Genzyme	12,000	88	0	0
CSL	10,300	0	0	0
Life Technologies	9,000	19	48	0
PerkinElmer	8,800	42	0	0
Bio-Rad Laboratories	6,600	19	15	0
bioMerieux	6,300	4	0	1
Millipore	6,100	44	46	250
Novozymes	5,122	0	1	0
IDEXX Laboratories	4,800	23	0	0
Biogen Idec	4,750	0	69	1
Shire	3,875	86	1	0
Gilead Sciences	3,852	0	29	0
WuXi PharmaTech	3,773	0	0	0
Biocon	3,673	0	0	0
Qiagen	3,500	0	0	1
Cephalon	3,026	0	0	0
Celgene	2,813	8	8	0
Actelion	2,200	0	2	0
Biotest	1,834	0	4	0
Illumina	1,781	22	29	26
Amylin Pharmaceuticals	1,500	17	5	0
Vertex Pharmaceuticals	1,427	47	75	0
Elan Pharmaceuticals	1,321	6	5	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, 12 July 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	532	11	0
Bayer	106,200	68	1	9
GlaxoSmithKline	103,483	0	0	3
Sanofi-aventis	99,495	30	3	0
Novartis	98,200	41	59	0
Pfizer	86,600	0	63	19
Roche	78,604	10	34	7
Abbott Laboratories	68,697	33	32	2
AstraZeneca	67,400	83	1	9
Merck & Co.	59,800	0	2	1

^aData obtained from MedAdNews. ^bAs searched on Monster.com, Biospace.com and Naturejobs.com, 12 July 2011. Jobs may overlap.

Table 3 Selected biotech and pharma downsizings

Company	Number of employees cut	Details
Myrexix	57	Will restructure and reduce headcount by 41% to 81, primarily from internal drug discovery group, and will focus resources on its pipeline of cancer candidates.
Advanced Life Sciences Holdings	NA	Suspended operations and terminated its staff due to a lack of cash.
Array BioPharma	70	Will restructure and reduce head count by 22% to 255 to save cash. The cuts will primarily affect discovery research and support positions.
Merck & Co.	551	Merck's Organon subsidiary will restructure and reduce R&D head count by 53% to 479 at two sites. Organon will establish a drug development center and early-phase clinical research at the site in Oss with the remaining personnel.
Novalar Pharmaceuticals	12	Will cease operations after Septodont acquired its sole program, OraVerse phenolamine, for an undisclosed sum plus potential milestones and royalties.
Renovo Group	NA	Will restructure and terminate all current employees. Renovo will also vacate the majority of its premises in Manchester.
Silence Therapeutics	NA	Will consolidate its corporate activities to a more centralized location through the closure of its US operations, responsible for business development, legal IP and general corporate management, in the next quarter.
StemCells	20	Will restructure and reduce US head count by 30% to save cash and focus on development of its HuCNS-SC human neural stem cells program.
Theratechnologies	24	Will restructure and reduce head count by 25% to 71. Most of the cuts will come from R&D.

Source: BioCentury.

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