

## Fourth-quarter biotech job picture

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The number of biotech sector jobs advertised in the fourth quarter of 2011 was down slightly compared with the third quarter, whereas pharma sector hiring numbers were similar (*Nat. Biotechnol.* **29**, 1053, 2011) as seen in three representative job databases tracked by *Nature Biotechnology* (Tables 1 and 2).

China continues to attract new investment, as Quintiles Transnational (Research Triangle Park, NC, USA) launched Kun Tuo, a Beijing-based contract research organization providing clinical trial management, regulatory submission preparation, biostatistics and data management services to Chinese biotech and pharma companies. Quintiles plans to add 300 employees in China this year.

The US Northeast was another hotbed of job growth, with 11 New York-based medical centers coming together with Illumina (San Diego) and Roche (Basel) to create the New York Genome Center, a nonprofit genomics collaboration that will include the creation of a research facility in Manhattan in the spring. Member institutions will be able to share clinical and genomic data and resources as well as access large-scale DNA sequencing, data mining and computational technologies. Meanwhile, upstate, Cleveland BioLabs (Buffalo, NY, USA) has formed a joint venture called Panacela Labs (Buffalo, NY, USA) with Rusnano (Moscow), that aims to develop and commercialize products for cancer and infectious diseases.

Finally, the Jackson Laboratory (Bar Harbor, ME, USA) announced a tentative plan to create a center for personalized medicine and genomics in Connecticut. The Jackson Laboratory for Genomic Medicine, to be located near the University of Connecticut Health Center in Farmington, would have a budget of about \$1.1 billion, with The Jackson Laboratory providing \$809 million through federal research grants and philanthropy. The center would employ 300 people within the first 10 years and 600 employees within 20 years.

Fourth-quarter downsizings within the life science 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	Biospace	Naturejobs
Monsanto	21,400	0	0	1
Amgen	17,250	48	43	0
Life Technologies	11,000	50	2	0
Genzyme	10,100	37	0	0
CSL	9,992	0	0	0
Bio-Rad Laboratories	6,880	14	25	0
bioMerieux	6,378	0	0	0
PerkinElmer	6,200	10	0	0
Novozymes	5,655	0	0	0
Biogen Idec	4,850	0	0	0
IDEXX Laboratories	4,800	5	0	0
Biocon	4,478	0	0	0
WuXi PharmaTech	4,465	0	0	0
Shire	4,183	58	2	0
Celgene	4,182	4	13	10
Gilead Sciences	4,000	0	7	0
Cephalon	3,726	0	0	0
Qiagen	3,587	0	0	0
Endo Pharmaceuticals	2,947	0	0	0
Actelion	2,441	0	1	0
Illumina	2,100	0	18	1
Vertex Pharmaceuticals	1,691	38	71	7
Biotest Pharmaceuticals	1,627	0	10	0
Dendreon	1,497	0	0	0
Albany Molecular Research	1,421	0	0	0

<sup>a</sup>As defined in *Nature Biotechnology's* survey of public companies (**29**, 585–591, 2011). <sup>b</sup>As searched on Monster.com, Biospace.com and Naturejobs.com, 27 December 2011. 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	Biospace	Naturejobs
Johnson & Johnson	119,200	487	12	0
Bayer	106,200	154	15	2
GlaxoSmithKline	103,483	2	0	0
Sanofi-aventis	99,495	47	11	0
Novartis	98,200	86	41	5
Pfizer	86,600	0	36	6
Roche	78,604	11	3	20
Abbott Laboratories	68,697	0	28	0
AstraZeneca	67,400	0	1	1
Merck & Co.	59,800	1	1	14

<sup>a</sup>Data obtained from *MedAdNews*. <sup>b</sup>As searched on Monster.com, Biospace.com and Naturejobs.com, 27 December 2011. Jobs may overlap.

**Table 3 Selected biotech and pharma downsizings**

Company <sup>a</sup>	Number of employees	Number of advertised openings <sup>b</sup>
AMAG Pharmaceuticals	58	Will restructure and reduce head count by 19% to 253 and cut discretionary spending to save \$20–25 million in 2012.
Amgen	380	Plans "targeted, strategic reductions" to its R&D staff. The company has not closed any sites or eliminated any therapeutic areas.
AVI BioPharma	35	Will restructure and reduce head count by 28% to 92 to streamline operations and lower expenses.
Charles River Laboratories International	150	Will reduce head count by 2%, primarily from its preclinical services business. The cuts are expected to save \$7.5 million annually starting in 2012.
Geron	66	Will restructure and reduce head count by 38% to 109 and discontinue development of its stem cell programs.
Karo Bio	25	Will reduce head count as part of a "cost efficiency program" related to the company's plan to spin out its preclinical operations. The cuts will come primarily from preclinical development.
Novartis	2,000	Will restructure and reduce head count over the next three to five years to address global drug pricing pressures. Will close two factories in Switzerland and one in Italy, as well as restructure and outsource select development functions in Switzerland and the US, but will add about 700 new positions in "low cost" and other countries.
Qiagen	304–380	Will restructure and reduce its current head count by about 8–10% worldwide, including undisclosed R&D programs, to save about \$50 million annually.
Rosetta Genomics	35	Will restructure and reduce head count by 66% to 18 to save cash. The cuts will come primarily in R&D and general and administrative positions.

Source: *BioCentury*.

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