

## Second-quarter biotech job picture

Michael Francisco

In the second quarter of 2012, the number of advertised biotech and pharma sector jobs continued the steady increase seen in the first quarter of the year (*Nat. Biotechnol.* **30**, 467, 2012). Notable jumps in the number of listings were seen in at least one of the representative job databases tracked by *Nature Biotechnology* (Tables 1 and 2) from Monsanto, Amgen, Life Technologies, Shire, Illumina, Dendreon, Pfizer, Roche, AstraZeneca and Merck.

Notable expansions during the quarter include Tokyo-based Astellas Pharma opening its \$150-million North American headquarters in Northbrook, Illinois, in June. The campus holds about 1,100 employees. In addition, in April, Life Technologies unveiled a planned \$18.5-million expansion of its 20-year-old manufacturing facilities at Inchinnan, UK, creating 20 to 30 jobs initially with potential for further employment creation. The company employs more than 500 people at Inchinnan.

China continues to expand its life science footprint. Eli Lilly opened the Lilly China Research and Development Center in Shanghai to discover and develop diabetes treatments tailored specifically for Chinese patients, employing about 150 scientists and support staff hired primarily from China. Quintiles will open a 450-person regional headquarters in Shanghai in 2013. And Roche disclosed at a media event in Shanghai that it will invest \$310.2 million over the next five years in China. Although no

further details were disclosed, the news came shortly before the company announced the closing of its Nutley, New Jersey, facility along with the loss of 1,000 jobs.

Merck KGaA also announced the closure of biotech division Merck Serono's headquarters in Geneva as the first move of a cost-cutting program announced earlier this year. The plan will eliminate 500 employees and transfer 750 positions to Merck locations in Darmstadt, Germany; Boston; and Beijing. The company hopes to save \$386.6 million by 2014 through the Merck Serono restructuring.

Other second-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	LinkedIn <sup>c</sup>	Naturejobs
Monsanto	21,400	0	202	0
Amgen	17,250	72	194	0
Life Technologies	11,000	45	17	843
Genzyme	10,100	99	8	0
CSL	9,992	5	2	0
Bio-Rad Laboratories	6,880	8	110	0
bioMérieux	6,378	1	9	0
PerkinElmer	6,200	32	8	0
Novozymes	5,655	0	3	0
Biogen Idec	4,850	7	35	1
IDEXX Laboratories	4,800	7	15	0
Biocon	4,478	0	9	0
WuXi AppTech	4,465	0	5	0
Shire	4,183	94	19	0
Celgene	4,182	7	23	15
Gilead Sciences	4,000	0	47	0
Cephalon	3,726	0	0	0
Qiagen	3,587	0	6	0
Endo Pharmaceuticals	2,947	0	5	0
Actelion	2,441	4	3	0
Illumina	2,100	78	7	9
Vertex Pharmaceuticals	1,691	19	12	0
Biotest Pharmaceuticals	1,627	0	18	0
Dendreon	1,497	0	33	0
Albany Molecular Research	1,421	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>		<b>478</b>	<b>792</b>	<b>868</b>

<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, LinkedIn.com and Naturejobs.com, 12 July 2012. <sup>c</sup>LinkedIn replaces Biospace. 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	LinkedIn <sup>c</sup>	Naturejobs
Johnson & Johnson	119,200	602	77	4
Bayer	106,200	0	74	1
GlaxoSmithKline	103,483	6	22	2
Sanofi-aventis	99,495	0	11	3
Novartis	98,200	93	101	3
Pfizer	86,600	1	230	15
Roche	78,604	7	116	12
Abbott Laboratories	68,697	0	22	5
AstraZeneca	67,400	85	51	1
Merck & Co.	59,800	0	141	0
<b>Total</b>		<b>794</b>	<b>845</b>	<b>46</b>

<sup>a</sup>Data obtained from MedAdNews. <sup>b</sup>As searched on Monster.com, LinkedIn.com and Naturejobs.com, 12 July 2012. <sup>c</sup>LinkedIn replaces Biospace. Jobs may overlap.

**Table 3 Selected biotech and pharma downsizings**

Company	Number of employees cut	Details
Addex	28	Will restructure and reduce headcount by up to 33% from 85 to reduce costs.
Therapeutics Complete	55	Announced plans to cut about 20% of its 270 employees and explore strategic alternatives, including a merger, business combination, equity investment or sale.
Genomics Karo Bio	10	Reduced headcount by 19% to 44 in the second phase of its efficiency program. In February, the company reduced headcount by 24% to 52.
Takeda Pharmaceutical	25	Will close its S. San Francisco, California, site and relocate most essential antibody and biologics research to San Diego. Half of the approximately 50 employees from the S. San Francisco site will be offered positions in San Diego.
Targacept	65	Will reduce headcount by 46% to 75 following several clinical setbacks to save about \$12.9 million annually in operating expenses.
Veloxis Pharmaceuticals	30–35	Will restructure and reduce headcount by about 40–50% to conserve resources for the development and commercialization of LCP-Tacro to prevent organ rejection. Will discontinue other pipeline activities, including early-phase research, but did not provide details.
WaferGen BioSystems	20	Will reduce headcount by 38% to 33 to reduce costs and will focus on its SmartChip Real-Time PCR System.

Source: *BioCentury*

Michael Francisco is a Senior Editor at *Nature Biotechnology*.