

Third-quarter biotech job picture

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The third quarter of 2012 saw the number of advertised biotech and pharma sector jobs remain stable from the previous quarter (*Nat. Biotechnol.* 30, 803, 2012). On the representative job databases tracked by *Nature Biotechnology*, the number of total listings for the largest companies increased on Monster but declined on LinkedIn. Company-wise, CSL, bioMérieux, PerkinElmer, IDEXX Laboratories, Celgene, Johnson & Johnson and Roche substantially increased their numbers of open positions on at least one job board, whereas Monsanto, Amgen, Bio-Rad Laboratories, Biotest, Dendreon, Bayer, GSK, Pfizer and Merck experienced hiring slowdowns (Tables 1 and 2).

Notable expansions during the quarter include New Brunswick, New Jersey-based Johnson & Johnson, which plans to establish four regional centers to identify and accelerate development of early-stage life science innovations. The centers will be located in California (with campuses in San Diego and San Francisco), Boston, London and an as-yet-undetermined location in China. Morphotek, a subsidiary of Eisai, will open an \$80-million, 60,000-square-foot biologics manufacturing facility in Exton, Pennsylvania. Covidien opened an R&D facility in Shanghai, housing 17 laboratories and surgical suites and employing over 300 people. Finally, Amarillo Biosciences plans to open an operations center in Taipei, Taiwan, to explore new business opportunities in Asia.

AstraZeneca announced that its subsidiary MedImmune will close two of its infectious disease and vaccine R&D sites in Mountain View and Santa Clara, California, as part of the pharma company's broader restructuring program announced in the first quarter of 2012. The closures will reduce headcount by 200 and relocate an additional 100 positions to MedImmune's other facilities. Additionally, Boehringer Ingelheim said it will discontinue its virology research program, resulting in the loss of about 170 employees, due to the closure of a Laval, Quebec, research facility in early next year.

Other third-quarter downsizings of note within the life science industry are shown in Table 3.

Table 2 Advertised job openings at the ten largest pharma companies

Company ^a	Number of employees	Number of advertised openings ^b		
		Monster	LinkedIn	Naturejobs
Johnson & Johnson	119,200	777	35	0
Bayer	106,200	15	10	7
GlaxoSmithKline	103,483	6	6	6
Sanofi	99,495	1	8	0
Novartis	98,200	128	28	6
Pfizer	86,600	0	85	3
Roche	78,604	2	206	24
Abbott Laboratories	68,697	10	0	1
AstraZeneca	67,400	56	30	11
Merck & Co.	59,800	9	60	0
Total		1,004	468	58

^aData obtained from *MedAdNews*. ^bAs searched on Monster.com, LinkedIn.com and Naturejobs.com, 11 October 2012. Jobs may overlap.

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

Company ^a	Number of employees	Number of advertised openings ^b		
		Monster	LinkedIn	Naturejobs
Monsanto	21,400	5	2	0
Amgen	17,250	1	92	0
Life Technologies	11,000	41	47	817
Genzyme	10,100	94	41	0
CSL	9,992	17	0	0
Bio-Rad Laboratories	6,880	10	5	0
bioMérieux	6,378	28	3	0
PerkinElmer	6,200	69	9	0
Novozymes	5,655	0	1	1
Biogen Idec	4,850	33	36	2
IDEXX Laboratories	4,800	31	6	0
Biocon	4,478	0	0	0
WuXi AppTech	4,465	0	8	0
Shire	4,183	90	11	0
Celgene	4,182	66	11	7
Gilead Sciences	4,000	0	30	0
Cephalon	3,726	0	0	0
Qiagen	3,587	0	1	0
Endo Pharmaceuticals	2,947	0	18	0
Actelion	2,441	5	4	0
Illumina	2,100	35	13	35
Vertex Pharmaceuticals	1,691	28	10	1
Biotest Pharmaceuticals	1,627	0	1	0
Dendreon	1,497	0	2	0
Albany Molecular Research	1,421	0	0	0
Total		557	351	863

^aAs defined in *Nature Biotechnology's* survey of public companies (29, 585-591; 2011). ^bAs searched on Monster.com, LinkedIn.com and Naturejobs.com, 11 October 2012. Jobs may overlap.

Table 3 Selected biotech and pharma downsizings

Company	Number of employees cut	Details
Actelion	Up to 135	Will cut about 5% of its approximately 2,500 employees as part of a plan to reduce spending by refocusing R&D activities on specialty areas. The cuts will affect R&D and administration.
AMAG Pharmaceuticals	45	Will restructure and reduce headcount by 26% to about 130 by year end to focus on advancing anemia drug Feraheme (ferumoxylol) and expanding its portfolio with commercial-stage products.
BioInvent International	21	Will restructure and reduce headcount by 24% to 68 following its June decision to discontinue development of TB-402, which is expected to save \$2.1 million annually.
Infinity Pharmaceuticals	30	Reduced headcount by about 20% to 160 after it discontinued development of cancer compound saridegib and terminated a deal with Purdue Pharma and Mundipharma.
Dendreon	600	Will restructure and reduce headcount by 40%. It will close its Morris Plains, NJ, manufacturing facility, which is one of three facilities producing prostate cancer drug Provenge (sipuleucel-T), the company's only drug on the market.
Pharming Group	At least 20	Will restructure its Dutch operations and reduce headcount to align resources to transition from a mainly internal research-driven model to a market-driven, external R&D model.
QLT	146	Will restructure and reduce headcount by 68% to 68 to focus on ophthalmic candidate QLT091001.
Savient Pharmaceuticals	60	Will restructure and reduce headcount by about 35% to improve operational efficiencies while focusing on the commercialization of Krystexxa (pegloticase).

Source: *BioCentury*

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