First-quarter biotech job picture

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The first quarter of 2013 saw a noticeable increase in the number of advertised biotech and pharma sector jobs compared with the previous quarter (*Nat. Biotechnol.* **31**, 175, 2013). Listings for the top 25 biotech companies increased by 90% on Monster, by 92% on LinkedIn and by 29% on Naturejobs. Pharma company listings were more mixed, decreasing by almost half on Monster but increasing by 4% and by 20-fold on LinkedIn and Naturejobs, respectively (Tables 1 and 2).

AstraZeneca announced a major restructuring this quarter. Starting this year, it will cut about 5,050 positions over 3 years, saving the company about \$800 million annually by 2016. In the UK, it will close its London headquarters and its small-molecule R&D facility in Alderley Park and establish a new \$500-million R&D facility and corporate headquarters in Cambridge. In the US, small- and large-molecule R&D will be consolidated into AstraZeneca's Gaithersburg, Maryland facility, the headquarters of its MedImmune biologics unit. However, its North American commercial headquarters will remain in Wilmington, Delaware.

In London, Johnson & Johnson opened the first of four planned

innovation centers to identify and accelerate the development of early-stage life-science innovations. The company plans to open three other facilities in Shanghai, San Francisco and Boston.

Merck Serono's Entrepreneur Partnership Program, a \$37-million fund to create spinouts resulting from the company's restructuring, launched its sixth new company—Calypso Biotech. Calypso, which will continue R&D of an undisclosed Merck Serono preclinical antibody program for the treatment of inflammatory bowel disease, joins previous spinouts Ondaco, TQM Insight, Asceneuron, Quartz Bio and Prexton Therapeutics.

Meanwhile, the employment situation for some of the 1,250 employees affected by the closure of the company's Geneva headquarters in June 2012 has been resolved, with 280 employees transferring to other Merck Serono sites, 390 finding employment elsewhere and 80 retiring early. Merck Serono had previously announced that 500 jobs would be eliminated with the facility's closure.

Other notable first-quarter downsizings in the life-science industry are shown in Table 3.

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

Company ^a	Number of employees	Number of advertised openings ^b		
		Monster	LinkedIn	Naturejobs
Monsanto	21,400	4	246	0
Amgen	17,250	87	135	0
Life Technologies	11,000	28	38	991
Genzyme	10,100	126	8	0
CSL	9,992	1	50	0
Bio-Rad Laboratories	6,880	17	11	0
bioMerieux	6,378	27	19	0
PerkinElmer	6,200	61	24	0
Novozymes	5,655	0	5	0
Biogen Idec	4,850	5	44	0
IDEXX Laboratories	4,800	14	28	0
Biocon	4,478	0	0	0
WuXi AppTec	4,465	0	0	0
Shire	4,183	49	90	0
Celgene	4,182	20	43	169
Gilead Sciences	4,000	0	29	0
Cephalon	3,726	0	175	0
Qiagen	3,587	0	3	0
Endo Pharmaceuticals	2,947	0	16	0
Actelion	2,441	6	3	0
Illumina	2,100	95	12	1
Vertex Pharmaceuticals	1,691	2	8	0
Biotech Pharmaceuticals	1,627	0	53	0
Dendreon	1,497	0	49	0
Albany Molecular Research	1,421	0	0	0
Total		542	1,089	1,161

^aAs defined in *Nature Biotechnology's* survey of public companies (*Nat. Biotechnol.* **29**, 585–591, 2011). ^bAs searched on Monster.com, LinkedIn.com and Naturejobs.com, 10 April 2013. 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	LinkedIn	Naturejobs
Johnson & Johnson	119,200	619	79	7
Bayer	106,200	9	0	10
GlaxoSmithKline	103,483	8	22	2
Sanofi	99,495	75	11	1
Novartis	98,200	102	47	5
Pfizer	86,600	1	100	953
Roche	78,604	0	20	12
Abbott Laboratories	68,697	0	271	0
AstraZeneca	67,400	68	25	16
Merck & Co.	59,800	7	34	0
Total		889	609	1,006

^aData obtained from *MedAdNews*. ^bAs searched on Monster.com, LinkedIn.com and Naturejobs.com, 10 April 2013. Jobs may overlap.

Table 3 Selected biotech and pharma downsizings

Company	Number of employees cut	Details
Affymax	~230	Will reduce head count by 75% and retain a bank to evaluate strategic alternatives due to the recall of its anemia drug Omontys (peginesatide) owing to postmarketing reports of serious hypersensitivity reactions that can be life threatening or fatal.
Affymetrix	>100	Plans to reduce its global workforce by 8% to generate annual savings of about \$25 million and help it become profitable.
Anika Therapeutics	12	Will close its tissue engineering facility in Abano Terme, Italy, owing to the facility's inability to meet European Medicines Agency regulatory standards for cell-based products that took effect on 1 January 2013.
Pernix Therapeutics Holdings	62	Reduced its combined sales head count by 33% to about 125 after the integration of generics company Cypress Pharmaceutical and its branded pharmaceutical subsidiary, Hawthorn Pharmaceuticals.
Pfizer	<100	Closed its CovX research unit in San Diego, which it acquired in 2008 for undisclosed terms. The company is reviewing CovX projects and technologies to determine how they can be appropriately transferred to other R&D areas.

Source: *BioCentury*.

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