

Second-quarter biotech job picture

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In the second quarter of 2013, the number of advertised biotech and pharma sector jobs fell slightly in the three job databases tracked by *Nature Biotechnology* (Tables 1 and 2). Compared with the previous quarter (*Nat. Biotechnol.* 31, 465, 2013), listings for the top 25 biotech companies dipped on Monster, LinkedIn and Naturejobs. Pharma company listings were more mixed, staying almost identical on Monster while increasing by 59% on LinkedIn and decreasing by more than 90% on Naturejobs, respectively. Of special note this quarter was the first appearance in these databases of two Asian companies. Bangalore, India-based Biocon posted 10 open positions and WuXi PharmaTech of Shanghai, China, posted 25 open positions on LinkedIn's job board, making it the most utilized database among the top 25 biotechs, with all but 3 of the companies represented.

In May, gene therapy developer GenVec (Gaithersburg, MD, USA) announced that its board had approved a plan to dissolve the company and liquidate its assets after reporting a 47% year-over-year drop in annual revenue for 2012. The company plans to distribute all remaining cash to shareholders after liabilities and other company obligations are paid.

In Europe, the sale of the former headquarters of Merck Serono in Geneva to the consortium behind the Campus Biotech initiative has been

finalized. Campus Biotech, consisting of a biotech research center with two local universities as well as a business incubator, is the brainchild of Hansjorg Wyss, founder of Synthes, and Ernesto Bertarelli, former CEO of Serono. The sale of the site cushions the blow of Merck Serono's announcement in April that it would shut down the facility and relocate its R&D activities to Germany, the United States and China.

Finally, Roche has said it will dissolve its Roche Applied Science division and integrate its product portfolio into the company's other diagnostics business areas by year's end. The division's PCR technology and nucleic acid product lines will fall under Roche Molecular Diagnostics, while the portfolio of platforms and reagents will be moved to Roche Professional Diagnostics. The changes will result in a head count reduction of about 170. Other notable 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 ^a	Employees	Advertised openings ^b		
		Monster	LinkedIn	Naturejobs
Monsanto	21,400	2	27	0
Amgen	17,250	9	79	1
Life Technologies	11,000	12	34	823
Genzyme	10,100	200	244	0
CSL	9,992	0	3	0
Bio-Rad Laboratories	6,880	9	6	0
bioMerieux	6,378	23	25	0
PerkinElmer	6,200	38	13	0
Novozymes	5,655	0	13	0
Biogen Idec	4,850	5	50	0
IDEXX Laboratories	4,800	17	0	0
Biocon	4,478	0	10	0
WuXi PharmaTech	4,465	0	25	0
Shire	4,183	58	125	0
Celgene	4,182	35	71	208
Gilead Sciences	4,000	0	62	0
Cephalon	3,726	0	181	0
Qiagen	3,587	0	11	0
Endo Pharmaceuticals	2,947	0	11	0
Actelion	2,441	2	0	0
Illumina	2,100	79	20	1
Vertex Pharmaceuticals	1,691	2	13	0
Biotest Pharmaceuticals	1,627	0	53	0
Dendreon	1,497	0	30	0
Albany Molecular Research	1,421	0	0	0
Total		489	1,075	1,033

^aAs defined in *Nature Biotechnology's* survey of public companies (29, 585–591, 2011). ^bAs searched on Monster.com, LinkedIn.com and Naturejobs.com, 18 July 2013. Jobs may overlap.

Table 2 Advertised job openings at the ten largest pharma companies

Company ^a	Employees	Advertised openings ^b		
		Monster	LinkedIn	Naturejobs
Johnson & Johnson	119,200	622	111	0
Bayer	106,200	3	0	8
GlaxoSmithKline	103,483	0	72	1
Sanofi	99,495	77	5	4
Novartis	98,200	86	81	1
Pfizer	86,600	3	234	57
Roche	78,604	0	201	9
Abbott Laboratories	68,697	1	152	1
AstraZeneca	67,400	53	52	0
Merck & Co.	59,800	0	62	0
Total		845	970	81

^aData obtained from *MedAdNews*. ^bAs searched on Monster.com, LinkedIn.com and Naturejobs.com, 18 July 2013. Jobs may overlap.

Table 3 Selected biotech and pharma downsizings

Company	Employees cut	Details
Addex Therapeutics	17	Reduced head count by 89%, to 2, to conserve cash. In the interim, an operational subcommittee of the board will supervise the company.
Affymax	NA	Notified the remaining 25% of its workforce of dates of separation and termination of executive officers as it continues restructuring. Hired new CEO, CFO and president and named new chairman in June.
Biota Pharmaceuticals	~30	Will reduce head count by 27%, to 80, over the next several quarters to save cash. The cuts will be concentrated on R&D but will include general and administrative.
Endo Health Solutions	~700	Will reduce head count by about 15% worldwide as part of a plan to reduce annual operating expenses by \$325 million by mid-2014.
Orion Corp.	<80	Finnish subsidiary Orion Diagnostica Oy will reduce head count to streamline operations and is considering closing its Turku site.
Pharmaxis	NA	Reduced head count by 30% to cut expenses and focus on partnership strategies and is consolidating its manufacturing facilities into one production facility.
Predictive Biosciences	91	Ceasing operations and laying off all employees after Medicare decided to deny coverage for the company's bladder cancer diagnostics.
Zogenix	55	Will reduce head count by 37%, to 93, to reduce operating expenses and achieve key business milestones, including gaining US Food & Drug Administration approval of a New Drug Application for pain product Zohydro ER hydrocodone bitartrate.

Source: *BioCentury*. NA, not available.

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