

## First-quarter biotech job picture

Michael Francisco

The first quarter of 2014 saw a rise in the number of biotechnology and pharmaceutical sector jobs advertised in the job databases tracked by *Nature Biotechnology* (Tables 1 and 2). Compared with the fourth quarter (*Nat. Biotechnol.* 32, 199, 2014), biotech listings rose slightly on Monster and remained steady on LinkedIn and Naturejobs. Notably, LinkedIn featured openings from the top 24 biotech companies and the top 10 pharmas, suggesting its emerging dominance in the life-sciences job-seeking sector.

Several companies announced expansions in the first quarter. Israeli company Compugen announced plans to relocate its US R&D subsidiary to larger facilities in South San Francisco, California, in mid-2014, in conjunction with an increase in its R&D budget from \$10 million in 2013 to \$16 million this year.

Merck said it will create four innovation hubs in or near Boston, San Francisco, London and Shanghai to identify external early-stage and late-stage R&D opportunities for in-licensing or acquisition. Bayer announced a €500 (\$694.8) million investment to establish additional manufacturing capacities for its recombinant factor VIII (rFVIII) hemophilia products at its sites in Wuppertal and Leverkusen, Germany,

which will create about 500 new jobs by 2020. And AbbVie said it would invest \$320 million in a new facility to manufacture active drug substances for the company's oncology and immunology pipeline. The facility will create more than 250 jobs and is slated to open in Singapore by 2019.

Meanwhile, AstraZeneca has found a buyer for its Alderley Park cancer R&D center in northwest England. The 400-acre site will be taken over by Manchester Science Parks, which plans to maintain the center's status as a biomedical research campus. AstraZeneca's previously announced restructuring plans call for a move to a \$500-million complex in Cambridge, UK, with the aim of turning the area into a global hub with collaborators such as the Cancer Research UK Cambridge Institute, the University of Cambridge School of Clinical Medicine and Addenbrooke's Hospital.

Other notable third-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 <sup>a</sup>	Number of employees	Number of advertised openings <sup>b</sup>		
		Monster	LinkedIn	Naturejobs
Monsanto	21,500	1	32	0
Amgen	18,000	26	123	1
CSL	10,515	0	17	0
Life Technologies	10,000	0	23	0
PerkinElmer	7,500	51	41	0
Bio-Rad Laboratories	7,380	27	12	0
bioMerieux	7,285	19	22	0
WuXi PharmaTech	6,817	0	12	0
Biocon	6,253	0	9	0
Biogen Idec	5,950	1	54	0
Novozymes	5,865	0	13	0
IDEXX Laboratories	5,400	6	51	0
Shire	5,367	66	136	0
Gilead Sciences	5,000	0	98	12
Celgene	4,700	33	142	31
Endo Pharmaceuticals	4,629	0	162	0
Qiagen	3,999	0	16	0
Actelion	2,433	6	5	0
Illumina	2,400	16	22	0
Vertex Pharmaceuticals	2,200	2	20	1
Regeneron Pharmaceuticals	1,950	90	57	1
Biotest Pharmaceuticals	1,727	0	1	0
Alexion Pharmaceuticals	1,373	1	125	0
Albany Molecular Research	1,329	1	2	0
CK Life Sciences	1,278	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>		<b>346</b>	<b>1,195</b>	<b>46</b>

<sup>a</sup>As defined in *Nature Biotechnology's* survey of public companies (*Nat. Biotechnol.* 31, 697-703; 2013). <sup>b</sup>As searched on Monster.com, LinkedIn.com and Naturejobs.com, 9 April 2014. 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	Naturejobs
Novartis	127,724	30	220	1
Johnson & Johnson	126,600	1,000+	1,186	6
Sanofi	111,974	193	183	0
GlaxoSmithKline	99,488	1	632	5
Pfizer	91,500	1	292	10
Abbott Laboratories	91,000	0	2	0
Merck & Co.	83,000	6	75	0
Roche	82,089	0	222	1
Bayer HealthCare	55,300	5	11	1
AstraZeneca	51,700	106	125	23
<b>Total</b>		<b>1,342</b>	<b>2,948</b>	<b>47</b>

<sup>a</sup>Data obtained from *FiercePharma*. <sup>b</sup>As searched on Monster.com, LinkedIn.com and Naturejobs.com, 9 April 2014. Jobs may overlap.

**Table 3 Selected biotech and pharma downsizings**

Company	Number of employees cut	Details
Ironwood Pharmaceuticals	53	Will reduce headcount by 10% to about 480 employees and will focus on the commercialization of Linzess (linaclotide) and its gastrointestinal pipeline.
Lexicon Pharmaceuticals	115	Will reduce headcount by 45% to about 125-130 employees to focus on its late-stage programs, primarily LX4211 for diabetes and telotristat etiprate (LX1032) for carcinoid syndrome, and prepare for commercialization. The cuts will come primarily from R&D and support positions.
Olympus	~200	Will discontinue operations for its US biotech division, Olympus Biotech, which includes a facility in Hopkinton, Massachusetts, by 30 May.
Wilex	41	Will reduce headcount by 80% to 10 at its headquarters in Munich. Will discontinue clinical development 'stepwise' to focus on contract research and antibody-drug conjugate (ADC) technology at its Heidelberg Pharma subsidiary in Ladenburg, Germany.

Source: *BioCentury*.

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