

Fourth-quarter biotech job picture

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In the final quarter of 2014, the number of advertised biotech and pharma sector jobs fell slightly in two of the three job databases tracked by *Nature Biotechnology* (Tables 1 and 2). Compared with the third quarter (*Nat. Biotechnol.* 32, 1167, 2014), biotech listings on Monster and Naturejobs shrank whereas listings on LinkedIn increased slightly.

In the fourth quarter, Novo Nordisk announced plans to establish a new obesity research unit tasked with identifying new approaches and targets for obesity treatments. The unit will be located with the company's type 1 diabetes research unit in Seattle and will initially employ about 10 people, with plans to expand to 60 by the end of 2016.

Following Baxter International's March 2014 announcement to split its medical products and biopharmaceuticals businesses into two public companies, the company began work on a 200,000-square foot global innovation and R&D center in Cambridge, Massachusetts for Baxalta, its

new biopharma company. Baxter will relocate approximately 400 R&D employees as well as business development, cancer and biosimilars teams to the new center from California and Europe.

Johnson & Johnson said it will open its fourth J-Labs incubator, a 30,000-square-foot facility capable of housing up to 50 life sciences startups, at Texas Medical Center in Houston. Scheduled to open in the fourth quarter of this year, the new incubator joins existing J-Labs in San Diego, San Francisco and Boston. Additionally, Johnson & Johnson has launched its Asia-Pacific Innovation Center in Shanghai, with satellite offices in Singapore, Australia and Japan. The center will use academic partnerships to identify early-stage innovations in the areas of pharmaceuticals, consumer healthcare products, and medical devices and diagnostics, and accelerate their development through deals.

Finally, startup Yumanity Therapeutics plans to discover therapeutic targets for protein misfolding diseases, including Alzheimer's disease and amyotrophic lateral sclerosis. Yumanity plans to have 20 to 25 employees in Cambridge, Massachusetts, by the end of 2015.

Selected downsizings within the life-sciences industry are shown in Table 3.

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	21,500	0	336	0
Amgen	18,000	5	622	0
CSL	10,515	0	71	0
Life Technologies	10,000	0	600	0
PerkinElmer	7,500	27	129	0
Bio-Rad Laboratories	7,380	0	8	2
bioMérieux	7,285	20	19	0
WuXi PharmaTech	6,817	8	54	0
Biocon	6,253	0	11	0
Biogen Idec	5,950	0	229	2
Novozymes	5,865	0	30	3
IDEXX Laboratories	5,400	2	139	0
Shire	5,367	17	251	0
Gilead Sciences	5,000	0	438	2
Celgene	4,700	29	286	174
Endo Pharmaceuticals	4,629	0	1	0
Qiagen	3,999	0	113	2
Actelion	2,433	4	4	0
Illumina	2,400	2	20	10
Vertex Pharmaceuticals	2,200	3	75	1
Regeneron Pharmaceuticals	1,950	231	205	0
Biotech Pharmaceuticals	1,727	0	1	0
Alexion Pharmaceuticals	1,373	0	126	0
Albany Molecular Research	1,329	0	89	0
CK Life Sciences	1,278	0	0	0
Total		348	3,857	194

^aAs defined in *Nature Biotechnology's* survey of public companies (31, 697–703; 2013).

^bAs searched on Monster.com, LinkedIn.com and Naturejobs.com, January 9, 2015. 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
Novartis	127,724	15	23	1
Johnson & Johnson	126,600	274	972	3
Sanofi	111,974	0	846	1
GlaxoSmithKline	99,488	0	0	0
Pfizer	91,500	0	896	12
Abbott Laboratories	91,000	0	86	13
Merck & Co.	83,000	0	256	3
Roche	82,089	0	344	10
Bayer HealthCare	55,300	3	55	1
AstraZeneca	51,700	85	427	23
Total		377	3,905	67

^aData obtained from *FiercePharma*. ^bAs searched on Monster.com, LinkedIn.com and Naturejobs.com, January 9, 2015. Jobs may overlap.

Table 3 Selected biotech and pharma downsizings

Company	Number of employees cut	Details
Auxilium Pharmaceuticals	~190	Will reduce headcount by about 30% to consolidate commercial operations and will focus on near-term R&D milestones. The company expects to reduce annual operating expenses by at least \$75 million.
Cytori Therapeutics	~42	Will reduce headcount to focus on its US clinical pipeline and government and corporate partnerships. The company expects the moves to save more than \$8 million annually.
Regado Biosciences	20	Will reduce headcount by about 60% across all operational sites. The reduction is related to the hold on the company's phase 3 trial evaluating its lead product candidate Revolix Kit, for patients with acute coronary syndromes.

Source: *BioCentury*.

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