First-quarter biotech job picture

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The number of advertised biotech and pharmaceutical sector jobs increased sharply during the first quarter of 2015 in the job databases tracked by *Nature Biotechnology* (Tables 1 and 2). Compared with the fourth quarter of 2014 (*Nat. Biotechnol.* **33**, 211, 2014), biotech listings on Monster, LinkedIn and Naturejobs grew, as many big biotechs and pharmas look to grow their work forces.

On the downside, in the first quarter Pfizer announced it would cut a number of R&D jobs at its Cambridge, Massachusetts, and Collegeville, Pennsylvania, facilities. The company did not say which units and how many employees would be affected. The company previously announced it would reallocate and add resources to its gene therapy and immunology areas.

In line with the completion of Merck's acquisition of Cubist Pharmaceuticals in January, the pharma announced it was discontinuing discovery and nonclinical operations at Cubist's Lexington,

Massachusetts, site. The move will affect 120 jobs, with some selected discovery projects transferring to other Merck sites. The cuts will not affect development of later-stage products at the site.

Amgen disclosed that it will shut the headquarters of its Onyx Pharmaceuticals subsidiary in S. San Francisco, California, by year's end and lay off about 300 of its 750 employees. Some Onyx R&D roles will move to Amgen's research facility in S. San Francisco.

Finally, Eisai's US subsidiary plans to restructure its operations to focus on the development of priority late-stage compounds. It will reduce its headcount by 25%, or approximately 425 employees, in its commercial and regional corporate services units in Woodcliff Lake, New Jersey; Andover, Massachusetts; Baltimore; Research Triangle Park, North Carolina; and Washington, DC.

Other 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	803	138	0
Amgen	18,000	459	599	61
CSL	10,515	1,000	8	0
Life Technologies	10,000	1,000	540	0
PerkinElmer	7,500	59	4,857	0
Bio-Rad Laboratories	7,380	174	6	0
bioMerieux	7,285	38	17	0
WuXi PharmaTech	6,817	45	24	0
Biocon	6,253	0	0	0
Biogen	5,950	856	41	1
Novozymes	5,865	1	12	1
IDEXX Laboratories	5,400	135	147	0
Shire	5,367	1,000	407	0
Gilead Sciences	5,000	1,000	381	3
Celgene	4,700	661	197	272
Endo Pharmaceuticals	4,629	100	18	0
Qiagen	3,999	70	98	1
Actelion	2,433	22	6	1
Illumina	2,400	64	227	0
Vertex Pharmaceuticals	2,200	94	100	0
Regeneron Pharmaceuticals	1,950	304	33	0
Biotest Pharmaceuticals	1,727	2	0	0
Alexion Pharmaceuticals	1,373	120	81	0
AMRI	1,329	56	70	0
CK Life Sciences	1,278	0	0	0
Total		8,063	8,007	337

^aAs defined in *Nature Biotechnology's* survey of public companies (31, 697–703; 2013). ^bAs searched on Monster.com, LinkedIn.com and Naturejobs.com, 14 April 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	1,000	813	6
Johnson & Johnson	126,600	1,000	3,342	5
Sanofi	111,974	1,000	509	3
GlaxoSmithKline	99,488	101	0	4
Pfizer	91,500	1,000	75	0
Abbott Laboratories	91,000	735	126	0
Merck & Co.	83,000	946	257	0
Roche	82,089	1,000	25	4
Bayer HealthCare	55,300	30	58	6
AstraZeneca	51,700	700	409	3
Total		7,512	5,614	31

^aData obtained from *FiercePharma*. ^bAs searched on Monster.com, LinkedIn.com and Naturejobs.com, 14 April 2015. Jobs may overlap.

Table 3 Selected biotech and pharma downsizings

Company	Number of employees cut	Details
AcelRx Pharmaceuticals	19	Will reduce headcount by 36% to focus resources on seeking FDA approval of sufentanil (Zalviso) sublingual tablet system and on development of ARX-04. The cuts primarily affect the commercial team and field-based medical personnel, who were hired in preparation for a potential launch of sufentanil.
Aveo Pharmaceuticals	40	Eliminated its internal research function and reduced headcount by 67% to 20 employees to focus resources on advancing its clinical pipeline.

Source: *BioCentury*.

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