

## First-quarter biotech job picture

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The turn of the year brought a flurry of new facilities announcements. New Brunswick, NJ-based Johnson & Johnson launched not one but two business incubators: JLABS@TMC, housed within the Texas Medical Center Innovation Institute in Houston, will initially house 21 companies with capacity for 30 more. And Janssen Pharmaceutica and Johnson & Johnson Innovation's JLINX incubator will host up to 20 startups at Janssen's campus in Beerse, Belgium. JLINX will focus on human microbiome research, according to J&J.

General Electric's GE Healthcare unit is partnering with Ontario's economic development authority and the not-for-profit Centre for Commercialization of Regenerative Medicine in Toronto to build a

\$28.3 million center that will provide cell therapy companies with facilities and expertise to help establish manufacturing processes that can produce the large cell numbers required for clinical and commercial use.

Advertised biotechnology and pharmaceutical sector jobs in the job databases tracked by *Nature Biotechnology* during the first quarter of 2016 are shown in **Tables 1** and **2**. Other 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 <sup>a</sup>	Number of employees	Number of advertised openings <sup>b</sup>		
		Monster	LinkedIn	Naturejobs
Monsanto	22,400	460	250	1
Amgen	17,900	716	432	0
CSL	12,196	+1,000	115	1
WuXi PharmaTech	8,837	209	102	0
bioMerieux	8,379	69	19	0
PerkinElmer	7,700	181	79	0
Bio-Rad Laboratories	7,600	328	196	0
Biogen	7,550	268	230	0
Biocon	7,310	0	0	0
Gilead Sciences	7,000	326	392	0
IDEXX Laboratories	6,400	108	187	0
Novozymes	6,267	0	5	0
Celgene	6,012	457	155	0
Endo Pharmaceuticals	5,062	162	40	0
Shire	5,016	782	180	0
Qiagen	4,339	40	75	0
Illumina	3,700	250	424	1
Regeneron Pharmaceuticals	2,925	30	244	0
Actelion	2,493	16	6	0
Alexion Pharmaceuticals	2,273	129	70	0
Biotest Pharmaceuticals	2,158	0	1	0
Vertex Pharmaceuticals	1,830	351	187	0
BioMarin Pharmaceutical	1,681	238	19	0
CK Life Sciences	1,675	0	0	0
AMRI	1,668	148	92	0
Total		6,268+	3,256	3

<sup>a</sup>As defined in *Nature Biotechnology's* survey of public companies (33, 703–709; 2015). <sup>b</sup>As searched on Monster.com, LinkedIn.com and Naturejobs.com, 12 April 2016. 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	133,413	1,000+	399	4
Johnson & Johnson	126,500	1,000+	1,250	1
Sanofi	113,496	490	816	1
GlaxoSmithKline	98,702	97	157	2
Roche	88,509	697	61	7
Pfizer	78,300	1,000+	89	0
Abbott Laboratories	77,000	836	337	1
Merck & Co.	70,000	1,000+	38	3
AstraZeneca	57,500	252	218	11
Teva Pharmaceutical	43,009	152	295	0
Total		6,524+	3,660	30

<sup>a</sup>Data obtained from Statista. <sup>b</sup>As searched on Monster.com, LinkedIn.com and Naturejobs.com, 12 April 2016. Jobs may overlap.

**Table 3 Selected biotech and pharma downsizings**

Company	Number of employees cut	Details
Aegerion Pharmaceuticals	~76	Cut 25% of workforce in all major departments as its hypercholesterolemia treatment Juxtapid (lomitapide) faces increased competition in the US.
Ariad Pharmaceuticals	~95	Reduced headcount by 19% to invest in the growth potential of leukemia drug Iclusig (ponatinib) and brigatinib, which is in a pivotal phase 2 trial to treat non-small-cell lung cancer.
OncoGenex Pharmaceuticals	11	Reduced headcount by 27% to focus on reaching several near-term clinical milestones for custirsen and apatersen.
Opexa Therapeutics	10	Cut 28% of workforce to focus on completing the phase 2b Abili-T trial of Tcelna (imilecleucel-T) to treat secondary progressive multiple sclerosis.
Sequenom	110	Reduced headcount to 390 to focus on women's health and will look for commercialization partners for its cancer liquid biopsy assay. Will close its laboratory in Research Triangle Park, NC, and consolidate those operations in San Diego.

Source: *BioCentury*.

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