Third-quarter biotech job picture

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In the third quarter, the Chan Zuckerberg Initiative announced a \$600 million commitment for a new medical science research center in collaboration with the University of California (UC) Berkeley, UC San Francisco and Stanford University. Headquartered in San Francisco's Mission Bay, with a satellite site at Stanford, the Chan Zuckerberg Biohub is the first philanthropic science investment made by Facebook founder and CEO Mark Zuckerberg and his wife, pediatrician Priscilla Chan.

New York-based Pfizer will invest \$350 million to build the Pfizer Global Biotechnology Center in Hangzhou, China, slated for completion in 2018. The center, to be built using a prefabricated module system developed by GE Healthcare, will be Pfizer's first in Asia and will focus on biosimilar production.

Finally, in August Novartis announced that it would dissolve its cell and gene therapy unit, a group that had worked on advancing one of the leading chimeric antigen receptor (CAR-) T-cell therapies now in the pipeline. The move will affect 400 workers across several different Novartis affiliates. The company said that most of the group would be redeployed but that about 120 would be let go.

Advertised biotech and pharma sector jobs in the job databases tracked by *Nature Biotechnology* during the third quarter of 2016 are shown in **Tables 1** and **2**. Other downsizings within the life sciences industry are shown in **Table 3**.

Table 1 Advertised openings at the 25 largest biotech companies

Company ^a	Number of employees	Number of advertised openings ^b		
		Monster	LinkedIn	Naturejobs
Monsanto	22,400	954	405	0
Amgen	17,900	625	308	1
CSL	12,196	1,000+	182	0
WuXi PharmaTech	8,837	100	24	0
bioMerieux	8,379	0	7	0
PerkinElmer	7,700	0	35	0
Bio-Rad Laboratories	7,600	6	9	0
Biogen	7,550	489	241	0
Biocon	7,310	0	0	0
Gilead Sciences	7,000	285	332	0
IDEXX Laboratories	6,400	110	29	0
Novozymes	6,267	44	7	0
Celgene	6,012	426	207	279
Endo Pharmaceuticals	5,062	148	36	0
Shire	5,016	25	581	0
Qiagen	4,339	34	45	0
Illumina	3,700	417	371	0
Regeneron Pharmaceuticals	2,925	370	279	0
Actelion	2,493	1	18	0
Alexion Pharmaceuticals	2,273	126	91	0
Biotest Pharmaceuticals	2,158	0	4	0
Vertex Pharmaceuticals	1,830	166	167	0
BioMarin Pharmaceutical	1,681	0	123	0
CK Life Sciences	1,675	0	0	0
AMRI	1,668	53	16	0
Total		5,379+	3,517	280

^aAs defined in *Nature Biotechnology's* survey of public companies (33, 703–709, 2015).

^bAs searched on Monster.com, LinkedIn.com and Naturejobs.com, 14 October 2016. 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	133,413	1,000+	346	0
Johnson & Johnson	126,500	1,000+	1,486	0
Sanofi	113,496	435	935	2
GlaxoSmithKline	98,702	110	426	2
Roche	88,509	1,000+	117	1
Pfizer	78,300	1,000+	91	0
Abbott Laboratories	77,000	422	383	1
Merck & Co.	70,000	1,000+	38	2
AstraZeneca	57,500	409	154	18
Teva Pharmaceutical	43,009	349	332	0
Total		6,725+	4,308	26

^aData obtained from Statista. ^bAs searched on Monster.com, LinkedIn.com and Naturejobs.com, 14 October 2016. Jobs may overlap.

Table 3 Selected biotech and pharma downsizings

Company	Number of employees cut	Details
Aegerion Pharmaceuticals	28	Reduced headcount by 13% and expects to complete its merger with QLT to form Novilion Therapeutics in 4Q16.
Catalyst Biosciences	10	Cut 50% of workforce and restructured to focus on its hemostasis programs, while exploring licensing opportunities for its preclinical anticomplement programs.
ImmunoGen	~65	Cut headcount by 17% primarily from technical operations and G&A functions.
Mast Therapeutics	NA	Will discontinue clinical development of its vepoloxamer (MST-188) treatment for sickle cell disease after it missed the primary endpoint in a phase 3 trial.
Rigel Pharmaceuticals	46	Reduced workforce by 38%, mostly from its research group, as it focuses on the launch of fostamatinib, an oral spleen tyrosine kinase (SYK) inhibitor.

NA, not available. Source: BioCentury

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