

# CAREERS AND RECRUITMENT

## First quarter resurgence in biotech job postings

Michael Francisco

The first quarter of 2010 saw a resurgence of biotech and pharma postings on the three representative job databases tracked by *Nature Biotechnology* (Tables 1 and 2). Most of the 10 largest biotech and 25 largest pharma companies saw an increase in listings compared with those in the fourth quarter of 2009 (*Nat. Biotechnol.* 28, 179, 2010),

with three times as many biotechs listing more positions than those listing fewer. For pharmas, this ratio was 4:1.

However, there was still some downsizing in the life science industry (Table 3). *Nature Biotechnology* will continue to follow hiring and firing trends throughout 2010.

**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	Biospace	Naturejobs
Monsanto	21,700	0	0	59
Amgen	16,800	40	1	4
Genentech	11,186	9	21	98
Genzyme	11,000	93	3	152
Life Technologies	9,700	36	41	0
PerkinElmer	7,900	27	0	0
Bio-Rad Laboratories	6,600	10	13	0
Biomerieux	6,140	11	0	0
Millipore	5,900	28	32	0
IDEXX Laboratories	4,700	20	0	0
Biogen Idec	4,700	47	50	0
Gilead Sciences	3,441	0	24	0
WuXi PharmaTech	3,172	0	0	0
Qiagen	3,041	0	0	0
Cephalon	2,780	0	2	1
Biocon	2,772	0	0	0
Celgene	2,441	1	12	0
Biotest	2,108	8	4	0
Actelion	2,054	3	3	0
Amylin Pharmaceuticals	1,800	8	9	0
Elan	1,687	7	5	0
Illumina	1,536	20	16	4
Albany Molecular Research	1,357	0	0	5
Vertex Pharmaceuticals	1,322	47	62	1
CK Life Sciences	1,315	0	0	0

<sup>a</sup>As defined in *Nature Biotechnology's* survey of public companies (27, 710–721, 2009). <sup>b</sup>As searched on Monster.com, Biospace.com and Naturejobs.com, April 14, 2010. 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	Biospace	Naturejobs
Johnson & Johnson	119,200	688	1	0
Bayer	106,200	96	16	4
GlaxoSmithKline	103,483	7	0	3
Sanofi-Aventis	99,495	29	3	0
Novartis	98,200	52	69	16
Pfizer	86,600	94	88	90
Roche	78,604	41	37	19
Abbott Laboratories	68,697	85	0	0
AstraZeneca	67,400	65	4	3
Merck & Co.	59,800	1	2	0

<sup>a</sup>Data obtained from MedAdNews. <sup>b</sup>As searched on Monster.com, Biospace.com and Naturejobs.com, April 14, 2010. Jobs may overlap.

**Table 3 Selected biotech and pharma downsizings**

Company	Number of employees cut	Details
AstraZeneca	8,000	Disclosed in 4Q09 earnings plans to further reduce head count by 2014 as part of its 2007 restructuring program, bringing total head count reductions for the restructuring to 23,000.
Cell Therapeutics	36	Laying off 34% of its workforce immediately in an effort to save \$16 million this year, after an FDA advisory panel unanimously recommended against approval of its lymphoma drug pixantrone in March.
Exelixis	270	Restructuring and reducing head count to 403 to focus on its mid- and late-stage pipeline. The cuts will come primarily from its early discovery program.
LifeCycle Pharma	30	Restructuring and reducing head count to 35 to focus on late-stage development while adding 10 employees this half in late-stage and business development.
Lonza Group	175	Restructuring and reducing head count through the closure of its manufacturing plants in Conshohocken, Pennsylvania, and Shawinigan, Quebec, and a warehouse and office facility in Wokingham, UK.
The Medicines Co.	43	Reducing US sales head count by 26% for an annual cost savings of \$8–\$9 million starting this quarter.
Merck & Co.	2,500	Reducing head count by 15% by the end of 2012 as part of the first phase of its restructuring after its 2009 acquisition of Schering-Plough. Cuts include duplicate vacant positions in sales, administration, manufacturing and R&D.
Pfizer	50	Reductions are in the company's Durham, North Carolina, facility; part of 170 job cuts announced by Pfizer in November, less than 3 weeks after the close of Pfizer's acquisition of Wyeth.
Poniard Pharmaceuticals	37	Restructuring and reducing head count to 12 full-time employees to reduce operating costs and focus its resources on the ongoing development of picoplatin to treat solid tumors.
XenoPort	109	Reducing head count by 50%—with a majority of the cuts coming from research—after March's complete response letter from the FDA for Horizant gabapentin enacarbil (XP13512; GSK1838262) to treat moderate to severe primary restless legs syndrome.

Source: BioCentury.

Michael Francisco is Senior Editor, *Nature Biotechnology*

