

CAREERS AND RECRUITMENT

Third-quarter biotech job picture

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Biotech and pharmaceutical positions on the three representative job databases tracked by *Nature Biotechnology* (Tables 1 and 2) were mixed in the third quarter of 2010. Compared with the second quarter (*Nat. Biotechnol.* 28, 875, 2010), the two largest biotechs, Monsanto (St. Louis) and Amgen (Thousand Oaks, CA, USA), saw increased job postings whereas most others remained flat or declined. Instrument makers PerkinElmer (Waltham, MA, USA) and Illumina (San Diego) also maintained their hiring pace.

The Boston area was hit hard in particular. Genzyme (Cambridge, MA, USA) announced the reduction of its workforce by 1,000 employees or about 10% over the next 15 months, due to the divestment of its Genzyme

Genetics unit to Laboratory Corp. of America Holdings. And Alnylam Pharmaceuticals (Cambridge, MA, USA) said it would restructure and reduce head count by ~25–30% after completing the fifth and final year of an RNA interference (RNAi) discovery deal with Novartis. Novartis has finalized its selection of 31 disease targets for which it has exclusive rights to discover, develop and commercialize RNAi therapeutics. Alnylam is eligible for development and sales milestones on therapeutics developed against the selected targets. The company said it expects the restructuring to save about \$25 million in operating expenses in 2011.

Table 3 shows additional selected third quarter downsizings within the life sciences industry.

Table 1 Who's hiring? Advertised openings at the 25 largest biotech companies

Company ^a	Number of employees	Number of advertised openings ^b		
		Monster	Biospace	Naturejobs
Monsanto	22,900	4	0	93
Amgen	17,100	52	70	0
Genzyme	12,000	67	1	0
CSL	10,300	0	0	0
Life Technologies	9,000	21	35	0
PerkinElmer	8,800	61	0	0
Bio-Rad Laboratories	6,600	9	14	0
bioMerieux	6,300	18	0	0
Millipore	6,100	19	14	0
Novozymes	5,122	0	0	0
IDEXX Laboratories	4,800	3	0	0
Biogen Idec	4,750	12	100	1
Shire	3,875	78	0	0
Gilead Sciences	3,852	0	29	0
WuXi PharmaTech	3,773	0	0	0
Biocon	3,673	0	0	0
Qiagen	3,500	0	0	0
Cephalon	3,026	0	0	0
Celgene	2,813	15	17	0
Actelion	2,200	5	3	0
Biotest	1,834	0	3	0
Illumina	1,781	34	59	16
Amylin Pharmaceuticals	1,500	4	2	0
Vertex Pharmaceuticals	1,427	43	79	1
Elan Pharmaceuticals	1,321	8	7	0

^aAs defined in *Nature Biotechnology's* survey of public companies (28, 793–799, 2010).

^bAs searched on Monster.com, Biospace.com and Naturejobs.com, 13 October 2010. 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	Biospace	Naturejobs
Johnson & Johnson	119,200	>1,000	5	5
Bayer	106,200	72	26	2
GlaxoSmithKline	103,483	0	0	1
Sanofi-aventis	99,495	0	0	2
Novartis	98,200	104	91	10
Pfizer	86,600	7	103	64
Roche	78,604	25	39	4
Abbott Laboratories	68,697	12	26	1
AstraZeneca	67,400	146	0	0
Merck & Co.	59,800	0	9	0

^aData obtained from *MedAdNews*. ^bAs searched on Monster.com, Biospace.com and Naturejobs.com, 13 October 2010. Jobs may overlap.

Table 3 Selected biotech and pharma downsizings

Company	Number of employees cut	Details
Adolor	30	Restructured and reduced head count by 30% to about 80 to save cash.
Amylin Pharmaceuticals	60	Cut about 4% of its workforce in a “few discrete functions,” including R&D, but cuts do “not signal a move away from research.”
Cypress Bioscience	123	Will restructure and reduce head count by 86% to 20 after it discontinued co-promotion of fibromyalgia drug Savella (milnacipran) in the US with partner Forest Laboratories.
Febit Group	~48	Restructured and reduced head count by about 60% to 30–35 to focus on its blood-based microRNA biomarker discovery services.
Gilead Sciences	120	Will close its HCV and HBV research facility in Durham, NC by the end of the year and move the operations to Foster City, CA, USA.
Merck & Co.		Announced plans to eliminate eight R&D and eight manufacturing facilities over the next 2 years as part of an ongoing restructuring following last year's acquisition of Schering-Plough, along with a 15% head count reduction.
NicOx	22	Closed its US headquarters after FDA issued a complete response letter for an NDA for naproxinod to treat signs and symptoms of osteoarthritis, resulting in head count reductions of 18% to 102.
Phenomix	45	Has cut most of its employees and is winding down operations after failing to find a new partner in North America to develop and commercialize diabetes candidate dutogliptin.
Santarus	120	Will reduce head count by about 37% to about 200, the majority from sales, as the company is ceasing promotion of its prescription Zegerid (omeprazole/sodium bicarbonate) due to impending generic competition.
Stem Cell Therapeutics	NA	Expects head count reductions to cut costs after NTx-265 to treat stroke missed its primary endpoint in a phase 2b trial.
Vectura Group	85	Will restructure R&D operations and reduce head count by 31% to 190 to focus on partnered programs and branded generics. The cuts include the proposed closure of a Nottingham, UK R&D facility.

HCV, hepatitis C virus; HBV, hepatitis B virus; NDA, new drug application; NA, not available. Source: BioCentury.

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