CAREER FEATURE

Fourth-quarter biotech job picture

A quarterly snapshot of job expansions, reductions and availability in the biotech and pharma sectors.

In October, Novartis announced restructuring plans that could eliminate up to 1,700 Swiss jobs over four years. The company would reduce about 1,000 positions across its manufacturing units and move management capabilities to service centers outside Switzerland, cutting up to 700 positions. Additionally, in the UK, Novartis plans to stop production at its manufacturing facility in Grimsby by the end of 2020 to consolidate production of high-volume active pharmaceutical ingredients. It will shut down the plant if a buyer cannot be found.

Merck subsidiary Merck Sharp & Dohme said it will build a new standalone vaccine and biologic manufacturing plant in Carlow, Ireland, next to its existing facility. The factory will create 170 jobs and bring to nearly 600 the numbers employed by the company in Carlow.

Lonza announced in December that it would buy a biologics facility in Guangzhou, China from GE Healthcare, giving the company a strategic base to respond to growing demand for high-quality contract development and manufacturing organization services in the country. The labs will house Lonza's proprietary platforms for cell-line construction, process development, cell banking and pilot labs, and will also allow small-scale good manufacturing process (GMP) manufacturing equipped with GE Healthcare's single-use biomanufacturing technologies combined with Lonza's automation platforms for clinical and early-commercial supply. Lonza will offer its suite of antibody development services and manufacture GMP-certified batches by 2020.

Finally, London-based Orchard Therapeutics announced its plans to construct a 150,000-square-foot facility in Fremont, California for the manufacture of gene therapies. The company said that 100 full-time employees will likely be hired as in-house manufacturing ramps up. When completed, the facility gives Orchard the capacity to manufacture lentiviral vectors, which are used to deliver gene therapies, and cryopreserved cell therapy products.

Advertised biotechnology and pharmaceutical sector jobs in the job databases tracked by *Nature Biotechnology* were slightly up in the fourth quarter of 2018 (Tables 1 and 2) compared with the previous quarter (*Nat. Biotechnol.* **36**, 1119, 2018). □

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	Biospace
Shire	23,906	326	607	2
Monsanto	20,800	833	278	0
Amgen	19,200	420	279	15
bioMérieux	9,335	0	19	0
Gilead Sciences	9,000	5	471	2
Biocon	8,234	0	10	0
Biogen	7,400	0	378	0
IDEXX Laboratories	7,365	0	322	0
Celgene	7,132	124	442	34
Novozymes	6,295	0	16	0
Opko Health	6,041	3	5	0
Illumina	5,500	62	301	8
Regeneron Pharmaceuticals	5,400	0	405	376
Endo Pharmaceuticals	4,894	35	42	0
Alexion Pharmaceuticals	3,121	121	204	0
AMRI	3,085	0	125	0
Actelion	2,624	0	7	0
Biotest	2,527	1	119	0
BioMarin Pharmaceutical	2,293	0	237	7
Myriad Genetics	2,206	105	122	0
Vertex Pharmaceuticals	2,150	434	171	11
Alkermes	1,750	84	136	0
CK Life Sciences	1,747	0	3	0
GenScript Biotech	1,592	0	1	0
Amphastar Pharmaceuticals	1,541	0	0	0
Total		2,574	4,700	455

^aAs defined in *Nature Biotechnology's* survey of public companies (**35**, 623–629, 2017). ^bAs searched on Monster.com, LinkedIn.com and Biospace.com, 7 January 2019. 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	Biospace
Novartis	133,413	28	2,042	77
Johnson & Johnson	126,500	7,407	1,225	0
Sanofi	113,496	66	1,468	9
GlaxoSmithKline	98,702	0	1,137	0
Roche	88,509	2	3,431	6
Pfizer	78,300	510	346	1
Abbott Laboratories	77,000	51	1,505	12
Merck & Co.	70,000	17	521	10
AstraZeneca	57,500	2	95	0
Teva Pharmaceutical	43,009	0	8	0
Total		8,083	11,778	114

^aData obtained from Statista. ^bAs searched on Monster.com, LinkedIn.com and Biospace.com, 7 January 2019. Jobs may overlap.

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