CAREER FEATURE

Third-quarter biotech job picture

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

Several large biotechs announced expansion plans in the third quarter. Genentech, part of the Roche Group, submitted a plan that would expand its South San Francisco campus from 4.7 million square feet to 9 million square feet and potentially double its employee count to 22,500. Current city statutes cap land ownership at 6 million square feet.

On the East Coast, Regeneron Pharmaceuticals will soon complete a new \$800 million addition to its campus in Rensselaer

County, New York, about two hours north of its headquarters. The labs, office space and parking garage will support its rapid growth bolstered by the success of Eylea (aflibercept), its treatment for age-related macular degeneration.

In September, contract research organization PPD said it would expand its Richmond, Virginia, facilities, adding 8,000 square feet to its immunochemistry and biomarker labs, 30,000 square feet to its chromatography services, and 200 new staffers. In addition, it is creating a new 4,500-square-foot cell and gene therapy lab to “provide industry-leading capabilities to meet biopharmaceutical clients’ increasing research needs.”

After more than 60 years in Bangladesh, French drugmaker Sanofi has notified the Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation—which has a 20% stake in the company’s local operation—of its plans to exit for strategic reasons. Sanofi is one of the largest pharma companies in Bangladesh, with more than 1,200 employees at a plant in Tongi and a corporate office in Dhaka.

Advertised biotechnology and pharmaceutical sector jobs in the job databases tracked by *Nature Biotechnology* were slightly up in the third quarter of 2019 (Tables 1 and 2) compared with the previous quarter (*Nat. Biotechnol.* 37, 963, 2019). □

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	23,044	1	751	0
Amgen	20,800	408	597	603
Monsanto	20,500	10	7	0
Gilead Sciences	10,000	3	281	145
bioMérieux	9,971	0	15	0
Biocon	9,234	0	1	0
IDEXX Laboratories	7,600	0	193	0
Celgene	7,467	0	296	21
Biogen	7,300	0	258	0
Regeneron Pharmaceuticals	6,200	0	404	456
Illumina	6,200	82	107	0
Novozymes	6,109	0	6	0
Opko Health	6,030	0	5	0
Endo Pharmaceuticals	3,039	44	32	0
BGI Genomics	2,585	0	0	0
BioMarin Pharmaceutical	2,581	0	190	7
Alexion Pharmaceuticals	2,525	0	149	0
Biotest	2,474	0	290	0
Myriad Genetics	2,400	0	164	0
Vertex Pharmaceuticals	2,300	0	193	11
Evotec	2,178	0	6	13
Alkermes	2,000	105	145	0
GenScript Biotech	1,932	10	39	0
CK Life Sciences	1,688	0	0	0
Amphastar Pharmaceuticals	1,644	0	5	0
Total		663	4,134	1,256

^aAs defined in *Nature Biotechnology*’s survey of public companies (36, 576–584, 2018). ^bAs searched on Monster.com, LinkedIn.com and Biospace.com, 1 October 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
Johnson & Johnson	134,000	0	909	0
Novartis	125,000	19	349	170
Sanofi	106,600	33	428	0
Bayer	99,900	9	344	0
Abbott Laboratories	99,000	1	911	7
GlaxoSmithKline	98,500	2	984	0
Roche	93,700	3	803	0
Pfizer	90,200	638	253	0
Merck & Co.	69,000	0	441	0
Sinopharm	61,700	0	0	0
Total		705	5,422	177

^aData obtained from Statista. ^bAs searched on Monster.com, LinkedIn.com and Biospace.com, 1 October 2019. Jobs may overlap.

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