CAREER FEATURE

Fourth-quarter biotech job picture

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

The final quarter of 2019 saw the opening of several new pharma manufacturing facilities worldwide. In October, BeiGene launched the first phase of a \$331 million manufacturing base in Guangzhou, China, that it will use for commercial manufacturing of oncology drugs. It is expected to employ 200 people. Also in October, Johnson & Johnson opened a 206,000-square-foot addition to its operations in Ringaskiddy, Ireland. J&J also expects to add 200 jobs. Finally,

Novartis inaugurated a new cell and gene therapy manufacturing facility in Stein, Switzerland at the end of November. The new facility will add 265 employees to its current 185 and will allow Novartis to manufacture tailored cell therapies such as Kymriah (tisagenlecleucel) for European patients. Previously, the treatment required shipment from Novartis's facility in Morris Plains, New Jersey.

Merck announced in October that it was cutting 500 jobs in its US sales and commercial teams. In November, it shuttered a toxicology R&D site in Riom, France, saying that the decreasing number of studies performed there no longer "made it possible to ensure optimal use of the center's capacity." Also in October, Eli Lilly announced the closure of its Erl Wood neuroscience center in Surrey, UK. The center will shut down at the end of 2020 and lay off 80 employees. Another 270 employees will be moved to a new location nearby, as the company's neuroscience research will shift to a center in the United States.

Advertised biotechnology and pharmaceutical sector jobs in the databases tracked by *Nature Biotechnology* were slightly up in the fourth quarter of 2019 (Tables 1 and 2) compared with the previous quarter (*Nat. Biotechnol.* 37, 1381, 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	0	1,950	0
Amgen	20,800	59	1,897	666
Monsanto	20,500	9	93	0
Gilead Sciences	10,000	14	532	27
bioMérieux	9,971	0	105	0
Biocon	9,234	0	16	0
IDEXX Laboratories	7,600	0	436	0
Celgene	7,467	224	399	44
Biogen	7,300	0	808	0
Regeneron Pharmaceuticals	6,200	3	542	652
Illumina	6,200	65	547	0
Novozymes	6,109	0	19	1
Opko Health	6,030	3	106	0
Endo Pharmaceuticals	3,039	64	56	0
BGI Genomics	2,585	0	3	0
BioMarin Pharmaceutical	2,581	0	201	8
Alexion Pharmaceuticals	2,525	0	301	0
Biotest	2,474	1	424	0
Myriad Genetics	2,400	2	170	0
Vertex Pharmaceuticals	2,300	48	280	0
Evotec	2,178	0	21	19
Alkermes	2,000	42	67	0
GenScript Biotech	1,932	0	0	0
CK Life Sciences	1,688	0	0	0
Amphastar Pharmaceuticals	1,644	0	5	0
Total		532	8,973	1,417

^aAs defined in *Nature Biotechnology's* survey of public companies (36, 576–584; 2018). ^bAs searched on Monster.com, LinkedIn.com and Biospace.com, 7 January 2020. 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	4,836	2,750	1
Novartis	125,000	29	3,275	192
Sanofi	106,600	41	1,743	0
Bayer	99,900	54	827	0
Abbott Laboratories	99,000	3	2,082	7
GlaxoSmithKline	98,500	1	2,687	0
Roche	93,700	4	4,784	3
Pfizer	90,200	1	470	0
Merck & Co.	69,000	3	462	0
Sinopharm	61,700	0	4	0
Total		4,972	19,084	203

^aData obtained from Statista. ^bAs searched on Monster.com, LinkedIn.com and Biospace.com, 7 January 2020. Jobs may overlap.

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