CAREER FEATURE

Second-quarter biotech job picture

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

The second quarter of 2020 saw several pharma company expansions. In April, Baxter International said it would hire up to 2,000 employees globally, including 800 in the United States, in response to greater demand for medical devices due to the coronavirus pandemic.

In June, Fujifilm Diosynth announced a \$928 million investment to double biologics production capacity at its Hillerød, Denmark site by 2023. The move comes a year after the contract development and manufacturing arm of the Japanese conglomerate acquired

the former Biogen facility for \$890 million. The current buildout includes adding six mammalian cell bioreactors, installing a fill/finish production line with an expected capacity of 35 million units per year, and setting up a new packaging line for autoinjectors with automatic labeling. The site has already received a commitment from the COVID-19 Therapeutics Accelerator, which has reserved future manufacturing capacity.

On the negative side, Sage Therapeutics announced a major restructuring following the failure of a phase 3 study. In April, the biotech laid off 340 employees, slightly more than half its workforce.

And in June, Sanofi said it would eliminate 1,700 European jobs, including 1,000 in France, as part of a \$1.8 billion cost cutting over the next two years. It also announced it would invest \$440 million to build a new vaccine production site in France that would create 200 jobs.

Advertised biotechnology and pharmaceutical sector jobs in the job databases tracked by *Nature Biotechnology* were down in the second quarter of 2020 (Tables 1 and 2) compared with the previous quarter (*Nat. Biotechnol.* **38**, 651, 2020). □

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
Amgen	21,500	75	184	152
Gilead Sciences	11,800	6	332	149
bioMérieux	11,200	29	17	0
Biocon	10,000	14	532	0
Celgene	8,852	180	0	165
IDEXX Laboratories	8,377	45	71	0
Biogen	7,800	20	491	0
Regeneron Pharmaceuticals	7,400	43	359	403
Illumina	7,300	166	124	0
Novozymes	6,279	0	2	0
Opko Health	5,690	0	0	0
Endo Pharmaceuticals	2,910	135	28	0
BioMarin Pharmaceutical	2,849	29	116	0
BGI Genomics	2,846	12	0	0
Alexion Pharmaceuticals	2,656	3	61	0
GenScript Biotech	2,620	0	0	8
Evotec	2,617	0	4	22
Vertex Pharmaceuticals	2,500	161	149	0
Myriad Genetics	2,400	34	97	0
Alkermes	2,300	55	62	0
Amphastar Pharmaceuticals	2,078	0	7	0
BeiGene	2,070	0	93	0
CK Life Sciences	1,785	0	0	0
Emergent BioSolutions	1,705	68	185	185
Biotest	1,663	0	0	0
Total		1,075	2,914	1,084

^aAs defined in *Nature Biotechnology's* survey of public companies (36, 576–584, 2018). ^bAs searched on Monster.com, LinkedIn.com and Biospace.com, 6 July 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	135,100	13	727	0
Bayer	115,500	16	237	0
Novartis	108,000	403	304	0
Sanofi	104,230	7	382	0
Abbott Laboratories	103,000	3	847	0
GlaxoSmithKline	95,490	2	704	0
Roche	94,440	2	450	0
Pfizer	92,400	4	309	0
Sinopharm	69,720	0	0	0
Merck & Co.	69,000	1	361	0
Total		451	4,315	0

^aData obtained from Statista. ^bAs searched on Monster.com, LinkedIn.com and Biospace.com, 6 July 2020. Jobs may overlap.

Michael Francisco

Senior Editor, *Nature Biotechnology*.

Published online: 5 August 2020

<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41587-020-0622-0>