



## CAREER FEATURE

# Second-quarter biotech job picture

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

Two new East Coast gene therapy manufacturing facilities opened for business this past quarter. On June 8, Astellas Pharma opened a 135,000-square-foot facility in Sanford, North Carolina. The facility, which was begun in late 2019 by Audentes Therapeutics before it was acquired by Astellas in a \$3 billion deal, will provide clinical- and commercial-scale manufacturing capabilities for Astellas's pipeline of adeno-associated virus (AAV) gene therapies. The site is expected to create 200 new jobs. One day later, REGENXBIO launched its own gene therapy manufacturing facility at its headquarters in Rockville, Maryland. The state-of-the-art facility will allow the company to increase production of NAV Technology-based AAV vectors at scales up to 2,000 liters.

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

Company <sup>a</sup>	Number of employees	Number of advertised openings <sup>b</sup>		
		Indeed	LinkedIn	Biospace
Amgen	24,300	727	837	755
Gilead Sciences	13,600	420	580	268
bioMérieux	12,800	144	33	0
Biocon	12,609	0	0	0
IDEXX	9,300	140	141	0
Regeneron Pharmaceuticals	9,123	633	794	662
Biogen	9,100	186	199	0
Illumina	7,800	317	410	0
Novozymes	5,903	26	29	0
BeiGene	5,300	131	353	0
Opko Health	5,269	4	0	0
Exact Sciences	4,800	176	291	0
GenScript Biotech	4,601	33	2	0
Alexion Pharmaceuticals	3,837	261	259	0
BGI Genomics	3,778	4	5	0
Evotec	3,572	96	440	67
Vertex Pharmaceuticals	3,400	329	353	0
Endo Pharmaceuticals	3,397	26	47	0
Innovent Biologics	3,279	2	2	0
BioMarin Pharmaceutical	3,059	76	84	76
Gan & Lee Pharmaceuticals	2,934	5	7	0
Myriad Genetics	2,700	129	129	0
Junshi Biosciences	2,453	0	0	0
Alkermes	2,245	113	104	0
Emergent BioSolutions	2,200	228	184	197
Total		4,206	5,283	2,025

<sup>a</sup>As defined in *Nature Biotechnology's* survey of public companies (<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41587-021-00973-w>). <sup>b</sup>As searched on Indeed.com, LinkedIn.com and Biospace.com, 7 July 2022. Jobs may overlap.

Moderna has agreed to a deal with the UK government to build the country's first research and manufacturing facility dedicated to the development of mRNA vaccines against COVID-19 variants and other respiratory illnesses. Construction of the mRNA Innovation and Technology Centre is expected to begin this year, with the first mRNA vaccines produced in the UK due in 2025. Moderna also said it will expand its clinical trials in the UK.

Also in the UK, Brentford-based GSK opened a new \$110 million 'smart' manufacturing plant in Barnard Castle. The fully automated facility is expected to streamline the manufacturing process, decrease waste, and hasten the launch of new medicines.

Germany's Merck KGaA announced its largest investment in a single life-science manufacturing site, saying it will spend \$470 million to build a new manufacturing facility and increase membrane manufacturing capacity in Cork, Ireland. The two sites in Ireland aim to create more than 370 permanent jobs by the end of 2027.

Finally, Sana Biotechnology, which raised \$588 million in its IPO last year, has announced plans for a new manufacturing site in Bothell, Washington. The new 80,000-square-foot facility will support the company's multiple cell and gene therapy candidates.

Advertised biotechnology and pharmaceutical sector jobs in the job databases tracked by *Nature Biotechnology* decreased slightly in the second quarter of 2022 (Tables 1 and 2) compared with the previous quarter (*Nat. Biotechnol.* **40**, 801, 2022). □

**Table 2 | Advertised job openings at the ten largest pharma companies**

Company <sup>a</sup>	Number of employees	Number of advertised openings <sup>b</sup>		
		Indeed	LinkedIn	Biospace
Johnson & Johnson	132,200	2,211	2,174	0
Abbott Laboratories	107,000	1,802	1,750	0
Novartis	105,800	377	299	0
Roche	101,500	392	856	0
Bayer	100,600	615	562	0
Sanofi	100,400	1,027	823	0
GSK	99,400	1,070	1,058	0
Pfizer	88,300	779	1,184	1,246
Merck & Co.	71,000	506	511	0
AstraZeneca	70,600	1,121	667	0
Total		9,900	9,884	1,246

<sup>a</sup>Data obtained from Statista. <sup>b</sup>As searched on Indeed.com, LinkedIn.com and Biospace.com, 7 July 2022. Jobs may overlap.

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