Careers in Pharma & Biotech

Mark Christie PhD, FBPharmacolS
BBSRC Industrial Impact Fellow

mark.christie@kcl.ac.uk
If it’s so Bad...

- BBC News Feb 2010; GlaxoSmithKline to shed 380 research jobs in Harlow. A pharmaceutical giant is to close one of its research units in Essex with the loss of about 380 jobs.
- BBC News March 2010; AstraZeneca has announced plans to close its research facility on the outskirts of Loughborough with the loss of almost 1,200 jobs.
- BBC News Jan 2011; Drug maker Pfizer is to close its research and development facility in Kent, which employs 2,400 people.
- BBC News March 2011; Pharmaceuticals giant Novartis announced on Wednesday it planned to reduce the total workforce of 950 at its Horsham site by 550.
How come it’s so Good?

New Drug Approvals FDA 2011

New drugs in the US market

The US FDA has approved 34 new drugs in 2011 compared to only 21 NME approved in 2010. FDA approved 7 life saving cancer drugs, Yervoy and Zelboraf for advanced melanoma, the first treatment Caprelsa for medullary thyroid cancer and Xalkori for NSCLC. It approved 2 new groundbreaking drugs for Hepatitis C. The current year is trending to a recent record for new drug approvals in the 35-40 range. A live updated review of new NME drug approvals by the FDA in the year 2011 is provided along with live RSS feeds. The FDA approved the first monoclonal antibody of the year Belimumab the first new drug in 56 years for lupus patients. Three mabs and 10 biologics were approved. Four new tyrosine kinase inhibitors were approved. Three mabs and 10 biologics were approved. Vicrelis (boceprevir) approval for HCV infections added a new drug after 20 years. The FDA approved 21 new drugs in 2010 compared to 25 in 2009 and 21 NME approved in 2008. The number of new drugs approved remained in the 20-25 range by the FDA during the past 4 years. Thus despite talks of increased R&D productivity and higher R&D spending, number of new drugs clearing regulatory hurdles has remained in the 20-25 range during the past few years. Approvals of existing drugs for new indications, new combinations, formulations, generics and biosimilars is not covered.
UK Life Sciences Industry

Overview

• 4536 companies
• £50bn turnover
• 166,280 staff

‘Strength and Opportunity 2009; The landscape of the medical technology, medical biotechnology and industrial biotechnology enterprises in the UK’.
Academia or Industry?

Be Permeable...
Choose something you love. Excel at it.
Knowledge

Pharma

Biotech

AstraZeneca

Fisons

Celltech

akraniM

Know your Sector

Medical Technology

Industrial Biotechnology

‘Strength and Opportunity 2011; The landscape of the medical technology, medical biotechnology and industrial biotechnology enterprises in the UK’.
Rewards

Make Speculative Investments (in yourself)
Connections

Build a Network
Geography

Expand your Horizons
Planning

And a Plan B...
YOUR COUNTRY NEEDS YOU