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CAREER OPTIONS AND FUTURE PROSPECTS IN BIOTECHNOLOGY

By [Katia VILLION](#)

The Newsletter team warmly thank [Emmanuelle HOARAU](#), who helped with the content of this article by providing some sources and most of the facts. Emmanuelle Hoarau has a PhD in development biology and she is a Life Sciences Practice Project Manager at Kelly International.

Biotechnologies offer a range of different colours regarding the sector it represents [1]. There is the **red** for the health sector, **green** for food-processing industry, **white** for industrial applications, **yellow** for the protection of the environment and **blue** for the biotechnologies developed from the marine world.

Sectors that recruit the most

Due to the pandemic, the job market was difficult to get in, but it also permitted some recruitment into the biotechnology **health sector**. Indeed, the word needed to develop new medicines ; genomics, regenerative medicine, oncology, and immunotherapy were fruitful fields that recruited. “Covid proved that health is the pillar of economy.” - says Emmanuelle.

Nowadays, people want a more ethically and durable food consumption. That relate to the **food-processing industry**. Moreover, climate change (**environment**) pushes the society to find solutions regarding soil and water treatments and to find renewable energies.

Digital is taking more and more place in every work branch. In biotechnologies, it's for data processing with machine learning to accelerate the discovery of new molecules, identify biomarkers, etc. Maybe the digital sector deserves a colour to itself ?

[1] OkayDoc “Quelles couleurs et quels débouchés pour les biotechnologies ?” Accessed March 2nd, 2023

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Existing jobs

Regarding the size of the recruiting companies, the represented jobs can be different. Start-ups have obviously a different organisation than big companies. In general, we will find :

- R&D positions. Those technical positions (technicians, engineers, project leaders, project managers) require a scientific expertise directly linked to the product, technique, or service commercialised by the company.
- support function
- sales
- marketing
- human resources
- communication
- finance

PhD and dual skills

Having a PhD is like having acquired a treasure box full of skills. You are the world expert of your thesis. Plus, you know how to : manage a project, solve complex problems, communicate well by oral and by writing, vulgarise, and so on ! So for the R&D, sales and consulting positions, the PhD is sufficient.

Some company see the PhD as studies or someone locked in his lab. But as said above, that's not true. PhD is a real positive point if you make good use of it via your CV and how good you explain all the experience you have gained.

Regarding dual skills, they will be asked for more specific jobs as finance and digital. Moreover, for the digital sector, a scientific expertise and a skill in coding or data processing are positions that exist more and more.

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Careers in biotechnologies compagnies

Nowadays, our relation to work has change. People need to find a job that make sense to them and don't want anymore that work dictate their life.

In the biotech sector, people usually build a career while acquiring more and more skills through the years. In big groups, it is possible to stay in the same company all your career and change position regularly. Some people prefer a durable position whereas other will prefer doing a series of termed contracts, with different missions.

Therefore, it is flexible regarding what you wish to do but we must keep in mind that the economical situation is not so stable.

To go further

If you want to know more, you can :

- Read consulting firms' reports (Deloitte, McKinsey, ...)
- Visit specialized websites :

<https://www.labiotech.eu/>

<https://www.fiercepharma.com/>

<https://www.pharmaforum.be/fr/> (French or Dutch)

- Use LinkedIn!
- Attend forums as ours!

DNA Script: Next generation DNA synthesis

DNASCRIPIT

By [Jing Liu](#)

Founded at Paris in 2014, DNA Script has revolutionized the DNA synthesis industry.

Synthetic DNAs are important for biological research. Since decades, DNAs were synthesized by adding nucleotide one by one using chemicals. However, this method can generate oligonucleotides only up to 200nt length, and will generate hazardous side products.

Terminal deoxynucleotidyl transferase (TdT) is found to exponentially increase antigen receptor diversity in the vertebrate immune system by adding nucleotides in a template-free manner, therefore researchers have exploited this function as an alternative to the chemical DNA synthesis method (1).

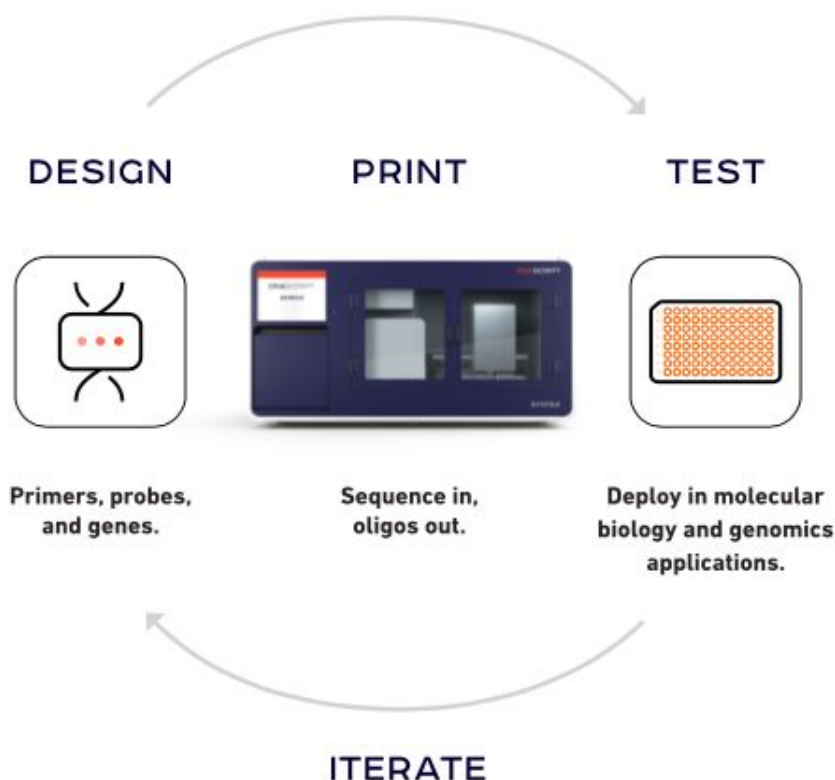
Enzymatic DNA synthesis by TdT allows template-independent oligonucleotide synthesis, it can generate longer oligonucleotides by theory and are more environmentally friendly.

DNA Script's key technology use TdT to generate DNAs. Its SYNTAX Platform enable scientists to generate oligonucleotides up to 80nt-length in their own laboratories. The company is developing products that allows synthesis of DNA longer than 200nt. (2)

The founders of DNA Script are three engineers, Sylvain Gariel, Thomas Ybert and Xavier Godron (two of them still students at the École des mines when the company was founded, the third a polytechnician, having just completed a thesis) (3).

In March 2023, DNA Script has more than 200 employees worldwide and has offices in both Europe and US. They are actively recruiting talents.

DNASCRIPT



References:

- (1) Jensen M.A., Davis R.W.. Template-Independent Enzymatic Oligonucleotide Synthesis (TiEOS): Its History, Prospects, and Challenges. *Biochemistry*. 2018
- (2) <https://www.dnascript.com>
- (3) Philippe Mustar. DNA Script. La co-construction d'une entreprise et de son innovation. L'entrepreneuriat en action.

The **REAL** section (for **Read** – Analyze – **Listen**) highlights our recommendations of the month.



What you can **READ** this month ?

- [**A day in the life of a scientific regulatory affairs manager**](#) by Elisabeth Pain

This is what the day-to-day of regulatory affair manager is like interview based article is a wroth of your reading time!

- [**Daunting but doable: Job searching after a postdoc**](#) by Kendall Powell

How postdocs can compete in a historically tight academic job market? Read this article to find out the answer.



What you can **ANALYZE** this month ?

- [**Huge variations in US postdoc salaries point to undervalued workforce**](#) by Chris Woolston

Thinking of pursuing a postdoc career in the US? Apparently female postdocs earn less than their male counterparts across much of the United States.



What you can **LISTEN** this month ?

- [**The One MSL Podcast**](#)

One MSL is a specialist training consultancy created from a vision to connect and up-skill the global Medical Scientific Liaison (MSL) community.



SPECIALS EVENTS OF THE MONTH

29th March: “Transition to a sales career in the biotechnology and biopharma industry!” webinar

Continuing our webinar series, this month we are excited to have 4 speakers:

- **Cristina Barsan** – QIAGEN Commercial Engineer
- **Sercan Deniz** – Scientific Sales Manager of 3Brain AG
- **Elise Loisel, PhD** – Commercial Engineer of VELA Diagnostics
- **Olivier Petitjean** – Senior Territory Manager of VectorBuilder

Come and meet the speakers and ask your questions about how to transition to a sales career in the biotechnology and biopharma industry!



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Transition to a sales career in the biotechnology & biopharma industry



March 29th
6:30-8PM



Online

REGISTER



CRISTINA BARSAN

Commercial Engineer
QIAGEN



SERCAN DENIZ

Scientific Sales Manager
3BRAIN AG



ELISE LOISEL

Commercial Engineer
VELA DIAGNOSTICS



OLIVIER PETITJEAN

Senior Territory Manager
VECTORBUILDER



March

2nd -29th

**Regionales Finales of “Ma thèse en 180 secondes”
2nd - 29th march**

Doctoral students have 180 seconds not one more to explain their research project by making it fascinating and understandable by all! A unique opportunity to popularize the content of their work to a non specialised audience!

Click [here](#) for more information.



March

9-10th

**Hello Tomorrow Global Summit
Thursday 9th - Friday 10th, 9:00am to 6:00pm**

Where ? Centquatre, Paris

Doctoral students, young doctors who wish to enter the world of deeptech: the largest gathering of startups, investors, large groups and international deeptech accelerators will take place in Paris.

Click [here](#) for information.



March

21th

“La dynamique start-up au Royaume-Uni et en Espagne” (conference) - by La French Tech

Tuesday 21th, 10:30 to 12:00 am

Where ? CIC Place de l’innovation Marseille, 8 Allée Léon Gambetta 13001

Discussion with qualified experts about trends, cultures and opportunities in english and spanish start-up.

Click [here](#) for registration (free).



LA FRENCH TECH
AIX-MARSEILLE
RÉGION SUD

March

28th-30th

**Forum labo & Biotech 2023 - by Forum Labo Paris
Tuesday 28th to Thursday 30th**

Where ? Paris Expo, Porte de Versailles.

Forum LABO Paris 2023 will set up a unique programme of specialised showcases, contests, fourteen conferences and twenty-four qualified, general, scientific and technical training courses. Click [here](#) for registration.





March

30th

Concours i-PhD

Application before 30th March, midnight

Funded by the French government and BPI France, this contest is reserved for young researchers or PhD students who wish to create or co-create a deeptech startup via a technology transfer promoting research results.

Click [here](#) for registration.



March

31th- 2nd

D4GEN Hackathon – Genopole

Application before March, 15th

Submit your project in one of the 4 themes of the Challenge. If you are selected, you will be one of the Hacking Days project leaders.

Click [here](#) for registration.



April

4th

“Les P’tits dej de l’ABG – by ABG association

Tuesday 4th – 9:00 to 10:30 am

Online event

The thematic will be around “Presenting yourself as part of the network approach.

Click [here](#) for registration !



We are recruiting !

You are welcome to join the Réseau Biotechno’s Newsletter team. Don’t hesitate to contact us at newsletter@reseau-biotechno.com