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## Biotechnology Careers

By George Royal

Taking up a job in biotechnology means involving oneself in the development of new products and processes for the good of mankind and quality of life. Before one seriously considers a career in biotechnology, it is imperative to have extensive knowledge in biology, chemistry, and other life sciences.

Biotechnology also has a deep impact on other areas such as human health careers which involves detecting and treating hereditary diseases, cancer, heart disease, AIDS, etc; in Veterinary Medicine, Animal Science, and Livestock Production; and in Agriculture and Plant Science.

A biotechnology company has a number of divisions, each performing different tasks and functions.

Career in Research and Development:

Like any other company, a biotechnology company also needs a qualified team of researchers to represent its future. While some researches may focus on a specific application, some may be carried out for acquiring new knowledge which may not need immediate application. Researchers may also work in academic environments such as universities or within the premises of the company setup. The most important thing is that research and product development form the foundation and basis of any biotechnological setup.

Career in Production and quality control:

People who have extensive knowledge of engineering or industrial-manufacturing technology are required by biotechnological firms in production and manufacturing. In order to make sure the finished products meet specifications, a group or team of quality assurance look after the production process, research and development. This group of experts belongs to the quality control division.

Career in Management:

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Biotechnology companies need managers who can supervise the working of the company such as Research and Development, Production, and Quality Control. These people are often Ph.D. level scientists who have worked their way up through special achievements or accomplishments. They may also have business training and experience sometimes.

### Career in Sales and Marketing:

Market researchers analyze, assess and estimate the need for a specific product and it would sell. They advertise and promote, and try to find new markets for products already being sold. Salespersons deal directly with consumers by selling, getting feedbacks etc, and are the most visible representatives of the biotechnology company.

### Career in Regulatory Affairs

Since all biotechnology companies, especially agricultural and pharmaceutical, are regulated by federal and state agencies such as FDA, EPA, and USDA regarding the safety, ethics etc of manufacturing and products, they need a team of experts and specialists to make sure the company follows all regulations laid down by these agencies.

### Career in Legal Affairs:

Any invention or discovery is not safe from copyright infringement without the proper patent. Since biotechnology companies and firms are continually engaged in the search for newer and better products, they need people specializing in law to prepare patent application, or keep track of patent laws.

### Career in Public Relations, Communications, and Training:

Biotechnology companies must be able to relay information to the public or other agencies in a language they will understand because biotechnology involves the use of technical terms much of the time. They must also be able to convince others on the credibility and usefulness of their products. As the company grows bigger, the scope of its recruitment also grows along with it. This would imply the need for more training and staff development, and hence more trainers.

<http://biotechnology-hq.com/>

Biotechnology HQ: articles and information about the science of biotechnology.

## **Profile Of A Biotech Career**

**By John Daye**

## Biotechnology Careers

Biotechnology is defined as the manipulation of organisms to do practical things and provide useful products. A career in biotechnology is possible for those with a Bachelor's, Master's or PhD. While most biotechnologists deal with living organisms, there are a few areas of biotechnology that do not, such as the field of studying radioactive tracers.

Earnings as a biotechnologist can run from \$30,000 all the way up to 6-figures for the more prestigious positions which will likely require a Ph.D. and many years of experience. Although this is quite a range, the mid-salary is \$50,000–60,000 for a corporate position. Let's delve into the exciting rewards this career choice has to offer.

### Challenging Work

Some biotechnologists study medical processes. Job functions in this area include the designing of organisms in order to result in antibiotics and the engineering of genetic cures via genomic manipulation. Other biotechnologists deal with industrial processes. Job functions in this area would cover the designing of an organism that results in useful chemicals. Still other biotechnologists deal with agricultural processes, i.e. the designing of transgenic plants, and enabling them to grow under certain environmental conditions.

Other work in biotechnology includes bioinformatics or computational biology. The focus in these fields is on solving biological problems using computational techniques. This work includes many different areas: functional and structural genomics, proteomics, and components in the biotechnology and pharmaceutical sector.

### Career Tidbits

If you are considering biotechnology as a career, please review the following list of general career tidbits:

- Biotechnologists generally work 40 hours per week, but may be asked to work more based on the particular experiments currently running. Their daily tasks most often involve working in a laboratory.
- Biotechnology breakthroughs have occurred in new medical therapies. For example, enhanced treatment of Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C, Diabetes, Cancers, Multiple Sclerosis, Arthritis, Hemophilia, and Bone Fractures have all been made possible via biotechnology.
- Biotechnology-related products have reached sales over \$500 billion per year and experienced a growth rate of 24% since the beginning of this century.
- Currently, job openings for biotechnologists are predicted to climb at a faster than average rate until 2014. than now!

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