

Nasdaq Honors National Biotechnology Month

National Biotechnology Month, celebrated in January, was first introduced by President Clinton in 2000 to recognize and prioritize the achievements and potential of this important field of science. Biotechnology focuses on techniques that use organisms or living systems to develop or make products. It overlaps with several other scientific disciplines, and its applications are both groundbreaking and life-altering. A significant amount of research concentrates on genetics (the study of individuals' inherited genes), genomics (the study of mutations in genes) and gene therapies.

Prior to Clinton's announcement, Nasdaq had already recognized the significant contribution biotechnology companies are making to improve healthcare outcomes. As such, we created the Nasdaq Biotechnology Index® (NBI®) in 1993 to measure the performance of securities listed on The Nasdaq Stock Exchange (Nasdaq) that are classified as either biotechnology or pharmaceutical companies. Currently, about 98% of all U.S. public biotechnology companies are listed on Nasdaq, and many of them are [components of the NBI](#).

In honor of National Biotechnology Month, we'd like to highlight three companies in the NBI that have made huge contributions in the fight against COVID-19 and the treatment of other diseases.

Moderna

Founded in 2010, Cambridge, Massachusetts-based Moderna (Nasdaq: MRNA) is a leading developer of vaccines, using messenger ribonucleic acid (mRNA) technology. Along with BioNTech, which partnered with Pfizer, Moderna created one of the first – and the most effective – vaccines against COVID-19 in record time. As of October 2021, 250 million people globally had received its vaccine. In addition to COVID-19, Moderna's product pipeline includes prophylactic

vaccines, cancer vaccines, intratumoral immuno-oncology, localized regenerative therapeutics, systemic secreted therapeutics, and systemic intracellular therapeutics.

Moderna now has around 1,300 employees. The company's fiscal year 2021 revenue is estimated at \$17.4 billion, up 2,070% from 2020. Its current market capitalization is about \$103 billion, and its weight in the NBI is 5.87%¹

Regeneron Pharmaceuticals

Tarrytown, New York-based [Regeneron Pharmaceuticals](#) (Nasdaq: REGN) was founded in 1988. Its Regeneron Genetics Center® is a uniquely integrated research initiative that seeks to improve patient care by using genomic approaches to speed drug discovery and development. In early 2020, the Center began developing and testing hundreds of virus-neutralizing COVID-19 antibodies in genetically engineered mice. In June 2020, it combined the two most potent, complementary, and non-competing antibodies into a single cocktail for large-scale manufacturing and clinical trials (REGEN-COV). Regeneron's other products target patients with eye diseases, allergic and inflammatory diseases, cancer, cardiovascular and metabolic diseases, hematologic conditions, infectious diseases, and rare diseases.

Regeneron Pharmaceuticals has around 9,100 employees. The company's fiscal year 2021 revenue is estimated at \$15.4 billion, up 218% from 2020. Its current market capitalization is about \$66.8 billion, and its weight in the NBI is 5.39%.

Intellia Therapeutics

Founded in 2014, [Intellia Therapeutics](#) (Nasdaq: NTLA) is a clinical stage genome editing company also based in Cambridge, Massachusetts. It uses CRISPR technology, which was discovered in 2012, to develop therapeutics for treatment

¹ Unless otherwise noted, all index and market data as of December 31, 2021.

of cancers and immunological diseases by permanently editing and/or correcting disease-associated genes in the human body with a single course. In August 2021, researchers published results of a six-person clinical trial – the first of its kind – using Intellia’s drug technology to fix a genetic defect that causes a rare, fatal liver condition. Patients in the trial saw as much as a 90% reduction in faulty liver cells.

Intellia Therapeutics has about 300 employees. The company’s fiscal 2021 revenue is estimated at \$29.6 million, up 80% from 2020. Its current market capitalization is around \$8.8 billion, and its weight in the NBI is 0.71%.

Investing in Biotech Innovation

Going forward, traditional pharmaceutical companies, which focus on creating medicines from chemicals to treat various conditions, will continue to play a key role in healthcare. At the same time, true breakthrough innovations stemming from biotechnology research will likely save lives and improve outcomes for patients across the globe.

Investors may participate in any single biotechnology company’s future by purchasing their shares outright, or they can invest in an exchange-traded fund (ETF) that tracks the performance of several hundred companies in the NBI. ETFs are a popular way for investors to gain exposure to a portfolio of stocks without having to take positions on an individual basis. They’re convenient because they trade throughout the day, like stocks, and they’re often more cost effective compared to mutual funds. [The Invesco Nasdaq Biotechnology ETF](#) (Nasdaq: IBBQ) is based on the NBI, and the fund normally invests at least 90% ² of its total assets in the securities that comprise the index.

Kudos to all biotechnology companies for their remarkable advances over the past two decades, and to the investors who support them.

¹ Unless otherwise noted, all index and market data as of December 31, 2021.

² <https://www.invesco.com/us/financial-products/etfs/product-detail?audienceType=Investor&ticker=IBBQ>

Sources: Nasdaq, FactSet, Moderna, NPR, Harvard Gazette, Bloomberg, Regeneron, Popular Science, Intellia Therapeutics. Data as of 12/31/2021.

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