



Astex Pharmaceuticals to Present at AACR Annual Meeting

DUBLIN, Calif., March 29, 2012 - Astex Pharmaceuticals, Inc. (NASDAQ: ASTX), a pharmaceutical company dedicated to the discovery and development of novel small molecule therapeutics, today announced the acceptance of fourteen abstracts for presentation at the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) 2012 Annual Meeting. Oral and poster presentations will occur on March 31, April 1-3 in Chicago, IL.

Highlights include two oral presentations and two poster presentations on SGI-110, Astex's novel second generation DNMT inhibitor, and a poster presentation on new data from the first in class dual IAP inhibitor program:

Saturday, March 31, 2012 3:55 - 4:30 pm CT SGI-110

Invited Presentation

Scale-up and development of a process for a low-volume subcutaneous formulation of SGI-110, a potent hypomethylating agent

Monday, Apr 2, 2012 1:00 - 5:00 pm CT IAP

Poster Presentation, Abstract # 2018

Discovery of potent dual inhibitors of both XIAP and cIAP1 using fragment based drug discovery

Monday, Apr 2, 2012 3:00 - 5:10 pm CT SGI-110

Oral Presentation, Abstract #: LB-214

Interim results from a randomized Phase 1-2 first-in-human-(FIH) study of PK/PD guided escalating doses of SGI-110, a novel subcutaneous (SQ) second generation hypomethylating agent (HMA) in relapsed/refractory MDS and AML

Tuesday, Apr 3, 2012 1:00 - 5:00 pm CT SGI-110

Poster Presentation, Abstract # 4077

Chemosensitizing effects of the novel, small molecule DNA methylation inhibitor SGI-110 in ovarian cancer

Tuesday, Apr 3, 2012 1:00 - 5:00 pm CT SGI-110

Poster Presentation, Abstract # 4076

SGI-110, a novel subcutaneous (SQ) second generation DNA hypomethylating agent achieves improved pharmacodynamics (PD), safety and pharmacokinetics (PK) in comparison to IV decitabine in a non-human primate in vivo study

Nine additional presentations will highlight new data on the company's drug development programs with AT13387 (HSP90 inhibitor), AT9283 (JAK/Aurora inhibitor), AT13148 (AGC Kinase inhibitor), MetAP2 inhibitors, PKM2 (Pyruvate Kinase) activators, and second generation PIM Kinase inhibitors. Select posters will be made available for viewing on the company's website www.astx.com following the public presentation.

About Astex Pharmaceuticals

Astex Pharmaceuticals is dedicated to the discovery and development of novel small molecule therapeutics with a focus on oncology. The Company is developing a proprietary pipeline of novel therapies and is creating de-risked products for partnership with leading pharmaceutical companies. Astex Pharmaceuticals developed Dacogen® (decitabine) for Injection and receives significant royalties on global sales.

For more information about Astex Pharmaceuticals, Inc., please visit <http://www.astx.com>.

Contacts:

Timothy L. Enns

Astex Pharmaceuticals, Inc.

Senior Vice President

Corporate Communications & Marketing

Tel: (925) 560-2810

Susanna Chau

Astex Pharmaceuticals, Inc.

Manager

Investor Relations

Tel: (925) 560-2845

E-mail: tim.enns@astx.com

Alan Roemer

The Trout Group

Managing Director

Tel: (646) 378-2945

E-mail: aroemer@troutgroup.com

E-mail: susanna.chau@astx.com

Melanie Toyne-Sewell (Europe)

Rebecca Skye Dietrich (US)

College Hill

Tel: +44 20 7866 7866

Tel: (857) 241-0795

E-mail: astex@collegehill.com