



Job Title: Postdoctoral Research Associate, Sustaining Innovation (Ref SI-SB002)

Project Title: **Structural Biology:** Enhanced understanding of the cellular pathways involved in the pathophysiology of Parkinson's disease: a structural approach

Job Type: 3 Year Fixed Term Contract, Full Time

Location: Cambridge, UK

Astex Pharmaceuticals is a world leader in innovative drug discovery and development. The company has successfully applied its proprietary Fragment-Based Drug Discovery (FBDD) platform to generate multiple new drug candidates that are progressing in clinical development and is recognised as having world leading expertise in structural biology and crystallography.

Astex's Sustaining Innovation Post-Doctoral Research Program aims to maintain and further enhance the company's excellent scientific culture by fostering basic research in areas of interest to drug discovery. The program also seeks to foster interactions between scientists from the biotech sector and academic experts in areas of common research interest.

A joint Post-doctoral research fellowship now exists jointly within the Molecular Sciences and newly established Neuroscience Groups of Astex. This project will explore the novel structure determinations of targets within key biological processes involved in neurodegeneration.

This will be a collaborative post-doc appointment with Dr Miratul Muqit of the MRC Protein Phosphorylation and Ubiquitination Unit at the University of Dundee. The project will be initially based in Astex's labs in Cambridge but will require travel to Dundee and potentially relocation for a prolonged period where appropriate.

The primary objective will be to use X-ray crystallography to elucidate the structure of a novel protein target(s) within key biological pathways implicated in Parkinson's disease. Utilising Astex's world renowned expertise in structural biology and the molecular and cellular systems available in the Muqit lab, the project will look to enhance our structural understanding of the biochemical basis of the disease.

Skills and Experience Required

- A PhD in a biological science with proven postdoctoral experience with a strong publication record
- Demonstrated molecular biology skills (e.g. design and cloning of constructs for recombinant protein expression) and protein expression (ideally eukaryotic & prokaryotic systems)
- Protein biochemistry skills (e.g. protein purification, experience of protein crystallisation & crystal optimisation and biophysical characterisation using techniques such as Tm, ITC, SPR).
- Protein X-ray crystallography (data collection, data processing & protein structure determination. Ideally experience of solving novel structures)
- A background in understanding the biochemistry of neurodegenerative disease would also be an advantage.
- The ability to contribute within highly multidisciplinary teams and work in a highly collaborative manner.

We offer excellent training and career development opportunities as well as a highly competitive salary and benefits package.

To apply please send your CV and a cover letter, quoting the job reference SI-SB002 to HR.UK@astx.com

*For information on Astex Pharmaceuticals please visit: www.astx.com
and for information on Otsuka Pharmaceuticals please visit: www.otsuka.co.jp*

We are recruiting for a number of roles some are permanent and some are for 2-3 year fixed term contracts depending on qualifications and experience