



Job Descriptions: **Cryo-EM Scientists / Structural Biologists**

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 platform to generate multiple new drug candidates that are progressing in clinical development. Astex continues to grow and focuses on Oncology and Neurological Disorders. We have opportunities at our Cambridge UK Research Centre for experienced and innovative scientists, wishing to develop their career in a thriving multidisciplinary, industrial environment.

CURIOSITY, CREATIVITY AND INNOVATIVE SCIENCE FOR DRUG DISCOVERY

...UNLOCK YOUR POTENTIAL

Astex has pioneered fragment-based drug discovery (FBDD) and the company now has multiple, fragment derived, drugs in late stage clinical trials. We utilise multiple biophysical techniques, in particular X-ray crystallography and NMR, within our FBDD platform called Pyramid™ and are continually seeking to enhance and develop our capabilities in structural biology. As such, Astex has been in the vanguard of organisations seeking to pioneer the use of cryo-electron microscopy (cryo-EM) for structure-based drug discovery (SBDD) and has access to a growing number of cryo-electron microscopes in-house and within an industry consortium. As part of Astex's on-going commitment to develop and expand its structural biology capabilities, our Molecular Sciences Group now has multiple opportunities for highly-driven scientists in the following areas:

Cryo-EM (ref: CS/1218)

In 2016 Astex led the formation of the Thermo-Fisher Pharma Consortium in Cambridge, UK, which guarantees our scientists regular access to Titan Krios microscopes. Additionally, Astex has a state of the art in-house cryo-EM facility, including a Glacios cryo-TEM, a fully equipped sample preparation laboratory and extensive computing infrastructure. We plan to expand this facility with additional microscopes during 2019 and 2020. To support this expansion, we are seeking two cryo-EM scientists to join our team to help develop this exciting new technique for drug discovery.

The successful candidates will be responsible for and have expertise in one or more of the following areas;

- Management, operation and maintenance of multiple cryo-EM microscopes and the associated infrastructure
- Training and assisting users in cryo-EM data collection
- Cryo-EM data processing, including method development, and integration of cryo-EM software into processing workflows
- Database interface development
- Python, HTML/JavaScript/CSS, SQL, Java, C++

Experience of cryo-EM sample preparation and data collection would also be beneficial but is not essential.

Structural Biology (ref: SB/1218)

We are also seeking doctoral level structural biologists and protein biochemists to help enable early stage targets within our oncology and CNS pipelines and to prosecute Pyramid™ screening campaigns. Candidates should be able to demonstrate expertise and have significant experience in one, or both, of the following areas:

- Utilising protein X-ray crystallography for FBDD and SBDD
- Expression, purification and characterisation of challenging protein targets, ideally including protein complexes and/or membrane proteins

Experience with other biophysical methods (*e.g.* NMR, SPR, ITC, MS) is desirable, but not essential.

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

Closing date: 31st January 2019

To apply, please send your CV and a cover letter quoting the job reference: CS/1218 or SB/1218 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 of which some are permanent, and some are for 2-3 year fixed term contracts depending on qualifications and experience.