Astex scientists describe novel HSP90 inhibitors in two key publications in Journal of Medicinal Chemistry

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Astex Therapeutics, the UK-based biotechnology company developing targeted therapies for oncology and virology, announced today that two key papers detailing its fragment-based drug discovery approach to heat shock protein 90 (HSP90) inhibitors have been published back-to-back in the industry-leading Journal of Medicinal Chemistry*.

The first paper describes fragment-based screening of HSP90 and subsequent structure-guided chemistry that improved the affinity of the initial lead compounds by over a million-fold with the addition of only 6 atoms. The companion paper describes how the lead compound was optimised into the clinical candidate, AT13387, a potentially best-in-class HSP90 inhibitor which is entering into Phase II clinical trials for the treatment of a variety of cancers. Together, the papers demonstrate the efficiency with which the Company’s fragment-based drug discovery platform, Pyramid™, can be used to identify small molecule drugs.

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