Job Title: Sustaining Innovation Postdoctoral Research Associate

Project Title: Chemistry Automation for Fragment-to-Lead Synthesis

Job Type: 3 Year Fixed Term Contract, Full Time

Location: Cambridge, UK

Applications are invited for an exciting postdoctoral opportunity as part of a collaboration between Astex and the University of Cambridge. Through the Astex Sustaining Innovation Postdoctoral research program, the project will involve the use of automation to develop an approach to exploring the reactivity of pharmaceutically-relevant small molecules, with the aim of enabling controllable functionalisation of fragment molecules. Working as a three-way partnership between Astex and the groups of Professor Alexei Lapkin (Department of Chemical Engineering and Biotechnology) and Professor Matthew Gaunt (Department of Chemistry) at the University of Cambridge, the project will merge state-of-the-art synthesis, automated experimental systems and data-driven science.

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. Successful collaborations have led to two launched oncology drugs (Kisqali® partnered with Novartis and Balversa™ partnered with Janssen). Astex continues to grow and focuses on Oncology and Neurological Disorders.

The University of Cambridge is one of the world’s oldest and most successful Universities, with an outstanding reputation for academic achievement and research. It was ranked first in the 2011 QS World University Rankings and its graduates have won more Nobel Prizes than any other university in the world. The University comprises more than 150 departments, faculties, schools and other institutions, plus a central administration and 31 independent and autonomous colleges.

The Astex Sustaining Innovation Postdoctoral research program has a track record of performing cutting-edge research and development and is a key element of our excellent scientific culture. During your SI Postdoc project you will be exposed to a multi-disciplinary pharma environment and the research environment of the University of Cambridge. You’ll benefit from Astex internal training seminars that will enhance your understanding of the drug discovery process. You will be a part of Chemistry Department at University of Cambridge and will have access to research training in synthesis, experiment automation, machine learning and artificial intelligence for chemistry. As part of your career development, you will have the opportunity to present your work within Astex and at external meetings and you’ll be expected to publish your findings in high-impact journals.

Candidate Requirements

- PhD in chemistry or chemical engineering with specific expertise in synthetic chemistry, flow chemistry and self-optimisation experimental systems for synthetic chemistry.
- Experience of advanced synthesis techniques: flow chemistry, high-throughput robotic experiments, automated analysis.
- Experience or appreciation of machine learning methods in synthetic chemistry and process development.
• A proven track record of innovation and solving complex problems is essential, as demonstrated by publication in high-impact peer-reviewed journals.

• The candidate is expected to have excellent communication skills (verbal and written) and the ability to work collaboratively within multidisciplinary teams.

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

To apply please send your CV and a cover letter, quoting the job reference: SI-CH20 to hr.uk@astx.com

Closing Date: 1st September 2020

At Astex we embrace diversity and equality of opportunity. We are committed to building an inclusive and diverse Company representing all backgrounds, harnessing industry-leading scientific innovation and behaviours

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