Job Title: **Sustaining Innovation Postdoctoral Research Associate**

Project Title: **Improving the sensitivity and accuracy of ligand detection and placement into X-ray and cryo-EM maps**

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 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.

CURIOSITY, CREATIVITY AND INNOVATIVE SCIENCE FOR DRUG DISCOVERY

...UNLOCK YOUR POTENTIAL

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. You'll benefit from our internal training seminars that will enhance your understanding of the drug discovery process. As part of your career development, you will have the opportunity to present your work within the company and at external meetings and you'll be expected to publish your findings in high-impact journals.

A postdoctoral position is available within the Molecular Sciences department to develop automated ligand fitting guided by experimental electron density / electrostatic potential maps. The project will focus on locating, sharpening and classifying unmodelled regions of density, determining the identity of the binder using density shape and other physical properties derived from the surroundings, and subsequently fitting the molecule taking potential interactions with the environment into account. Any new methods will be benchmarked using publicly available datasets and a proprietary Astex data repository containing over 10000 protein-ligand complexes.

Candidate Requirements

- PhD in crystallography, structural biology, computing, or a related discipline
- Good understanding of protein-ligand interactions
- Familiarity with ligand docking
- Experience with crystallographic computing is a plus
- Expert knowledge in Python
- Experience with artificial intelligence and cheminformatics is a plus
- Familiarity with common software development tools and practices (version control, testing, etc.)
- Excellent team working, written and verbal communication skills

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-M003** to recruitment.uk@astx.com

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