



Job Title: Sustaining Innovation Postdoctoral Research Associate

Project Title: Mapping CRISPR Base-editing data onto protein structural data to Identify Novel Druggable Domains for Targeted Cancer Therapies

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. 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.

Astex's sustaining innovation Postdoctoral research program aims to maintain and further enhance the Company's excellent scientific culture by fostering basic research in areas of interest to the drug discovery field, whilst working with scientists in both the biotech sector and with academic groups.

As part of the Sustaining Innovation program, Astex now has an opening for a postdoctoral scientist to utilise and develop methodologies for mapping CRISPR base-editing data onto protein structural data in order to identify novel druggable domains in specific cancer pathways. The successful candidate would join Astex's computational chemistry and informatics team, which has extensive expertise in developing structural bioinformatics and structure-based design applications. At the same time the position will profit from world-leading expertise on cancer genomics and CRISPR screening technologies as the project will be run as a collaboration with Mathew Garnett's group at the Wellcome Sanger Institute and aims to evaluate CRISPR base-editing data generated specifically for this project.

Combining cancer pathway CRISPR base-editing data with protein structural data

CRISPR base editing represents a key novel technology for identifying opportunities for targeted cancer therapies. An area that has had little attention involves linking this data directly to protein structural data. This would significantly enhance our ability to interpret and utilise the results and to predict novel druggable targets and mechanisms. The proposed SI postdoc project offers a great opportunity to look at exactly this novel synergistic use of CRISPR data and protein structure in the environment of an innovative drug discovery company. This is a challenging, cutting edge project that uniquely combines expertise in structural biology (Astex) and CRISPR/cancer genomics (Sanger).

Candidate Requirements

- A PhD in a relevant field
- Proven track record in working with protein structural data
- Significant and demonstrable programming experience
- Good communication skills

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

Closing Date: 7th June 2021

To apply please send your CV and a cover letter, quoting the job reference **SI-CR21** 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.

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