Job Titles: **Chemistry Synthesis Automation Specialist (Ref: AS/1121)**

Job Type: **Permanent, Full Time**

Location: **Cambridge, UK**

Astex Pharmaceuticals is a world leader in innovative drug discovery and development. The company has successfully applied its industry-leading 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.

We are now expanding our capabilities in chemistry automation and machine learning, to address synthesis challenges encountered in FBDD. This includes the establishment of a new, state-of-the-art laboratory on our Cambridge UK site, dedicated to high-throughput and automated synthesis methods.

We have an exciting new role in our medicinal chemistry department for a creative and ambitious scientist with a passion for organic synthesis. You will use your expertise to solve challenging synthesis problems encountered in structure-based design, using cutting-edge synthetic methodology and state-of-the-art automation platforms. You will be part of the ongoing revolution in organic synthesis and help to drive the expansion of our capabilities in high throughput experimentation and machine learning, and will apply these techniques to structure-driven fragment optimisation.

The successful applicant will join Astex's synthesis technology team, working in our newly-constructed automation facility, and be responsible for applying modern methods for C–H functionalisation (such as photoredox and electrochemistry) to the elaboration of fragments. They will collaborate with other discovery project scientists, including medicinal and computational chemists, in the structure-based design of potent drug development candidates. There will also be opportunities to publish pioneering research in leading scientific journals and present on the team's work at conferences.

Required experience, skills, and education:

- PhD degree in synthetic organic chemistry and experience in an industrial or academic chemistry automation laboratory.
- Exceptional knowledge of the latest developments in synthetic methodology.
- Broad experience of high throughput experimentation techniques and a keen interest in new technologies and equipment for organic synthesis.
- Hands-on experience with a range of solid- and liquid-handling robots is essential and programming skills would be highly desirable.
- A proven track record of innovation and complex problem-solving is essential.
- The candidate is expected to have excellent communication skills (verbal and written) and the ability to work collaboratively within multidisciplinary teams.

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

Closing Date: 31st December 2021

To apply, please send your CV and a cover letter quoting the appropriate job reference: **AS/1121** 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
For information on Otsuka Pharmaceuticals please visit: www.otsuka.co.jp