

**Astex Announces New Senior Management Team Appointments:
Michelle Jones appointed as President and Gianni Chessari appointed as CSO**

Cambridge, UK, 6 October 2025. Astex Pharmaceuticals (UK) (“Astex”), a pharmaceutical company dedicated to the discovery and development of novel small molecule therapeutics for oncology and diseases of the central nervous system has today announced new senior management appointments to drive the next phase of the Company’s continued growth and development. Michelle Jones, formerly Chief Operating Officer (COO), has been appointed President while Gianni Chessari has been appointed as Chief Scientific Officer (CSO).

Michelle Jones joined Astex in 2000. In her most recent role as COO, she has been driving the strategic oversight and alignment of various business, finance and science functions within the company, giving her a deep understanding of the business, Astex’s unique strengths and the opportunities ahead.

Gianni Chessari joined Astex in 2002. In his most recent role as Senior Vice President and Head of Drug Discovery his focus has been to continue to build on and improve Astex’s industry-leading capability in fragment-based drug discovery and structure-based drug design. Harnessing the pioneering improvements that Astex is making in Cryo-EM, informatics and in developing computational, AI and machine learning platforms using what is arguably one of the largest proprietary datasets of X-Ray and cryo-EM protein-ligand structures, Gianni will now lead Astex research initiatives to spearhead the discovery and development of next-generation therapeutics.

Michelle Jones said: “For 25 years I have seen how much the team at Astex cares about the science behind our business, and the impact we can deliver. I am excited to continue to make Astex successful, working alongside my talented colleagues.”

Gianni Chessari said: “I’m excited to lead the scientific team at Astex and to work with Michelle and the senior leadership to drive the next phase of innovation at Astex with the aim to continue to build on our past successes in helping to discover and develop new medicines for patients.”

Notes to Editors

About Michelle Jones

Michelle joined Astex in 2000. In her previous roles as COO and SVP, Strategy and Operations, she has been involved in the strategic oversight and alignment of various business, finance and science functions within the company. Michelle has extensive experience implementing R&D collaborations and IP license strategies, having been part of the Astex deal team for agreement negotiations, including alliances with major pharmaceutical companies such as MSD, Janssen and Novartis.

Michelle obtained a PhD in Biological Chemistry from the University of Cambridge and BSc (Hons) in Chemistry from the University of Birmingham.

Outside of her lengthy career at Astex, she was Chair of the BioIndustry Association IP Advisory Committee, member of the CIPA Life Science Committee and Fellow of the Royal Society of Chemistry. She has been recognised in IAM Strategy 300: The World's Leading IP Strategists and named a Managing IP Corporate IP Star for her leadership in maximising IP value and contributing to the IP community.

About Gianni Chessari

Gianni Chessari joined Astex in 2002 and has held leadership positions of increasing responsibility, including as Head of Modelling, Head of Medicinal Chemistry and most recently Senior Vice President and Head of Drug Discovery before being appointed as Chief Scientific Officer. With more than 2 decades of experience spanning early-stage drug discovery research to pre-clinical development, Gianni has a strong track record in fragment-based drug discovery and structure-based drug design, contributing to the development of Astex's Pyramid™ platform and to the discovery and development of multiple novel small molecule therapeutics that have advanced toward clinical trials. In that time, he has been a key member also of numerous joint steering committees and joint research committees fostering productive research and development collaborations with our research and development partners from academia and pharma.