

Job Title: Biomolecular NMR Spectroscopist

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 three launched oncology drugs (Kisqali[®] partnered with Novartis, Balversa[®] partnered with Janssen and Truqap[™] partnered with AstraZeneca). Astex continues to grow and focuses on Neurological Disorders and Oncology.

The Role

We are looking for a talented and self-motivated scientist with strong expertise in protein NMR spectroscopy to join the NMR team within Astex's Molecular Sciences Group. You will primarily be responsible for providing NMR support for Pyramid[™], Astex's proprietary fragment-based drug discovery (FBDD) platform and will be engaged in FBDD versus a spectrum of oncology and CNS targets. The primary focus will be enabling and prosecuting NMR fragment screening campaigns and developing NMR-based affinity assays. You will be expected to work with and communicate results to NMR technical specialists as well as highly inter-disciplinary project teams.

Astex has recently upgraded its in-house NMR facility, which now comprises 400MHz, 500MHz and 600MHz Bruker magnets equipped with SampleJet automated sample changers and a variety of room temperature and cryogenically cooled probe heads.

Principal Responsibilities:

- Develop ligand- and protein-observed NMR assays
- Perform NMR-based fragment screening and validate and characterise hits
- Use NMR to generate high-quality data on protein–ligand interactions, including affinity, kinetics, and mechanism of action
- Express and purify isotopically labeled protein samples
- Analyse, interpret, and present results clearly to project teams (written and oral)

Essential skills:

- Solid experience and expertise in protein NMR, and good understanding of NMR theory for biological macromolecules
- Practical experience in setting up, executing, and analysing NMR experiments on Bruker NMR spectrometers
- Strong understanding of protein–ligand biophysics and the use of biophysical techniques to investigate protein–ligand interactions
- Self-motivated, organised, proactive and independent style of working
- Comfortable working to timelines with good communication and presentation skills

Desirable skills:

- Experience with NMR automation and basic spectrometer maintenance tasks
- Knowledgeable in ligand-observed NMR experiments for probing interactions between proteins and small molecules
- Understanding of NMR reporter assays
- Experience with isotope labelling in insect and mammalian cells
- Drug discovery knowledge, in particular related to FBDD and SBDD
- Computational skills
- Other biophysical methods (ITC, Tm, SPR, MS)
- Experience of small molecule NMR

Why Astex

We offer excellent training and career development opportunities as well as highly competitive salary and benefits package including hybrid working options to promote a flexible and inclusive work environment.

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.

Astex is situated 2.5 miles from Cambridge City centre on the Cambridge Science Park. The Park has onsite sports facilities and excellent transport links to London.

More information

For information on Astex Pharmaceuticals please visit: www.astx.com

For information on Otsuka Pharmaceuticals please visit: www.otsuka.co.jp

How to Apply

All applicants should apply by email to recruitment.uk@astx.com, attaching their CV and covering letter as PDF documents. The subject line of the email should clearly state the reference **(NMR/0326)**

Please note that Astex holds a UK sponsor licence; if you require sponsorship, please state this in your application email.

The closing date for applications is midnight on 30 April 2026.