Astex Pharmaceuticals to Present at Future Leaders in the Biotech Industry Conference

DUBLIN, Calif., April 13, 2012 (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) -- Astex Pharmaceuticals, Inc. (Nasdaq:ASTX - News), a pharmaceutical company dedicated to the discovery and development of novel small molecule therapeutics, today announced that James S.J. Manuso, PhD, chairman and chief executive officer, will present at the Future Leaders in the Biotech Industry Conference -- organized by BioCentury and Thomson Reuters -- on Friday, April 20th in New York.

The Company's presentation will begin at 9:30 a.m. ET. A live webcast of the presentation will be available in the Investor Events section of the Company's website, www.astx.com. The webcast will be archived for 30 days.

About Astex Pharmaceuticals

Astex Pharmaceuticals is dedicated to the discovery and development of novel small molecule therapeutics with a focus on oncology. The Company is developing a proprietary pipeline of novel therapies and is creating de-risked products for partnership with leading pharmaceutical companies. Astex Pharmaceuticals developed Dacogen® (decitabine) for Injection and receives significant royalties on global sales.

For more information about Astex Pharmaceuticals, Inc., please visit http://www.astx.com.

The Astex Pharmaceuticals, Inc. logo is available at http://www.globenewswire.com/newsroom/prs/?pkgid=12273

Contact:


```
Timothy L. Enns
Astex Pharmaceuticals, Inc.
Senior Vice President
Corporate Communications & Marketing
Tel:  (925) 560-2810
E-mail:  tim.enns@astx.com
Susanna Chau
Astex Pharmaceuticals, Inc.
Manager
Investor Relations
Tel:  (925) 560-2845
E-mail:  susanna.chau@astx.com
Alan Roemer
The Trout Group
Managing Director
Tel:  (646) 378-2945
E-mail: aroemer@troutgroup.com
Melanie Toyne-Sewell (Europe)
Rebecca Skye Dietrich (US)
College Hill
Tel: +44 20 7866 7866
Tel: (857) 241-0795
E-mail: astex@collegehill.com
```