This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Dermatology				
Dermatitis; gastrointestinal disorders	Telomerase reverse transcriptase (TERT)	<p>Studies in mice suggest that activation of TERT could help treat aging-associated inflammatory pathologies of the skin and GI tract. TERT is the catalytic subunit of telomerase, an enzyme that helps prevent chromosomal damage associated with rapid cell division. In mice, overexpression of Tert significantly lowered the incidence of dermatitis, gastritis, enteritis and peritonitis compared with what was seen in mice not expressing Tert and in wild-type control mice ($p=0.02$ for both). The Tert-expressing mice had a 26% mean increase in lifespan compared with mice not expressing TERT ($p=0.05$). Next steps include additional preclinical studies.</p> <p>SciBX 1(43); doi:10.1038/scibx.2008.1049 Published online Dec. 4, 2008</p>	Patent and licensing status undisclosed	<p>Tomas-Loba, A. <i>et al. Cell</i>; published online Nov. 13, 2008; doi:10.1016/j.cell.2008.09.034</p> <p>Contact: Maria A. Blasco, Spanish National Cancer Centre, Madrid, Spain e-mail: mblasco@cni.es</p>