This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Colon cancer	Sirtuin 1 (SIRT1)	Studies *in vitro* and in mice suggest that overexpressing SIRT1 could be useful for treating colon cancer. In a transgenic mouse model of intestinal cancer, overexpression of SRT1 significantly lowered tumor burden and proliferation compared with what was seen in control mice that had normal expression of SRT1 ($p<0.01$ for both). Next steps include Phase I testing of a SIRT1 modulator to treat colon cancer. SRT501, an orally bioavailable formulation of resveratrol that activates SIRT1, from Sirtris Pharmaceuticals Inc., is in Phase IIa trials for type 2 diabetes and Phase I for mitochondrial myopathy, encephalopathy, lactic acidosis and stroke-like episodes (MELAS).	Patent application filed by Harvard University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology for the use of SIRT1 modulators to treat cancer; available for licensing	Firestein, R. *et al. PLoS ONE*; published online April 16, 2008; doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0002020 **Contact:** David A. Sinclair, Harvard Medical School, Boston, Mass. e-mail: david_sinclair@hms.harvard.edu