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Topics of interest:
Small molecule drugs that target the sirtuins, a recently discovered family of seven enzymes associated with the aging process

Dr. Christoph Westphal has emerged as a dynamic leader of calorie restriction research – increasing the likelihood that we will soon learn whether the ancient defense system that empowers living organisms to weather times of food scarcity can be harnessed to benefit human health and longevity. For years, scientists have talked about creating a CR mimetic. Now, Dr. Westphal has made that much more predictable. Seeking the world's greatest scientists for collaboration, he formed a partnership with Dr. David Sinclair. Together they created Sirtris, a cutting-edge biotech company that creates disease-intervention pharmaceuticals that change the activity level of sirtuin genes.

Most biotech startups burn through their cash, never realizing their ideas – even if worthy. With Dr. Wesphal's leadership, Sirtris rocketed from biotech startup to a welcome acquisition by GSK. This corporate connection is vitally important because now Dr. Westphal and the great team he has assembled have the financial backing to explore fully the potential of the Sirtuin genes for drug discovery. By further elucidating how CR science works, they will benefit millions.

The leader of this important mission must be the rare individual who has a deep background in medical research and genetics so that effective research paths will be chosen, as well as the business acumen to generate the support to move forward. Dr. Christoph Westphal is this gifted leader.

PUBLICATIONS

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atm and p53 cooperate in apoptosis and suppression of tumorigenesis, but not in resistance to acute radiation toxicity.

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