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The discovery of the first potent ...

... systemically active inhibitors of acid ceramidase (AC) are reported in the Communication by D. Piomelli and co-workers on page 485 ff. This enzyme controls the levels of two key intracellular messengers: ceramide, which causes cell senescence and death, and sphingosine-1-phosphate (S1P), which has the opposite effect. By blocking AC, the new inhibitors tilt the balance between ceramide and S1P, thereby enhancing the pro-aging and pro-death effects of the former compound.

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