The disease seems mainly to affect certain organs that have dividing cell populations in the body. This is reflected in culture as WS fibroblasts have a much reduced lifespan compared to normal fibroblasts. This rapid ageing of WS cells is thought to underlie many of the accelerated ageing features of WS individuals. We have found a drug (SB203580) that prevents this accelerated ageing of WS cells.

However, the actual target of SB203580 is not clear and the objective of this work is to further elucidate the drug target.