

## ANA screen update – December 2019

As part of an instrumentation upgrade in the laboratory we will now be performing ANA screens on **HEp2 cells** rather than HEp2000 cells. This is effective from 16<sup>th</sup> December 2019.

- Unlike HEp2000, HEp2 cells do not over-express Ro antigen so a very small number of Ro positive patients may not be picked up by the new ANA test. Therefore in ANA negative patients with a strong clinical indication for Ro positive disease eg neonatal lupus, ENA antibodies should also be requested.
- We vet ENA requests so are dependent upon appropriate clinical details being provided on request forms.
- The change in analyser will be highlighted on all reports.

We have also changed our **ANA screening dilution** from 1/40 to **1/80** as of 16<sup>th</sup> December 2019.

- This will reduce detection of very weak positive 1/40 ANAs that are not clinically relevant and often lead to unnecessary rheumatology referrals.
- The reporting of ANA titrations will change: you will see 1/80 titres being reported but will not see any 1/40 titres. The 1/160, 1/640, 1/2560 titres remain unchanged.
- Test requesting and sample requirements are unchanged.

Please contact the laboratory (0141 347 8872) if you have any queries or would like to discuss these updates.