

## **ANNOUNCEMENT**

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**Date:** April 24, 2012

Dear Clients:

Foundation Laboratory is pleased to announce that effective April 27, 2012 Anti-Double Stranded DNA autoantibody (anti-ds DNA IgG) will be performed in-house.

Nucleosome (NS)-reactive autoantibodies appear to be involved in the pathogenesis of Systemic Lupus Erythematosus (SLE), but the mechanisms responsible for their production remain elusive.

Anti Nuclear Antibodies (ANA) are detected in around 90-95% of SLE patients. ANAs with homogeneous pattern of nuclear staining classically are associated with antibodies to ds-DNA. The following three autoantibodies display greater than 95% specificity for SLE patients:

1. Sm, an antibody to extractable nuclear antigens (ENA)
2. Antibody to ribosomal phosphoproteins
3. Anti-Double Stranded DNA IgG

In patients suspected of having SLE, ANA screening alone may miss between 5-10% of patients with these conditions, and a full lupus panel is recommended. In addition to assisting in the confirmation of lupus diagnosis, ds-DNA antibodies have prognostic significance. The risk of renal disease in patients with positive ds-DNA antibodies is increased, with levels >50 IU/mL associated with approximately twice the background risk for lupus nephritis.

Anti-ds DNA IgG assay at Foundation Laboratory is performed by Enzyme-Linked Immunosorbent Assay (ELISA).

### **Specimen Requirements:**

- 1 mL Serum-separating tube (SST)
- Stability refrigerated 2C – 8C for 7 days
- Separated serum specimen needs to be shipped refrigerated.

### **Turn Around Time:**

- 5 Days

For supplies and other needs please contact your Foundation Laboratory representative.

Sincerely,

Reza M. Massoumi, Ph.D.  
Director of Technical Operations