

## Diagnostic Genetics Achieves Global Recognition

The Department of Diagnostic Genetics in LabPlus has achieved accreditation as a Children's Oncology Group (COG) laboratory. COG, a US-based organisation, is a worldwide clinical trial cooperative group supported by the US National Cancer Institute (NCI) and fashioned with the mission of studying childhood cancers. In 2006, it became mandatory for all COG study patients' diagnostic samples to be sent to an approved laboratory.

"These figures are now at a level of current best practise internationally". "Please accept my congratulations and look forward to continued excellent service." Dr. Lochie Teague (Clinical Director – Paediatric Haematology/Oncology, Starship)

For further information or enquiries on our services, please contact Alice George, Technical Head – Diagnostic Genetics at 0800 LABPLUS (0800 522 7587).

## Test updates

### First Trimester Antenatal Screening

LabPlus is pleased to announce that we can now offer First Trimester Antenatal Screening. Please note at present the patient will be required to pay for this testing.

The first Trimester Antenatal screen is a blood test taken between 10-13 weeks of pregnancy. The two blood markers are pregnancy associated plasma protein-A (PAPP-A) and free  $\beta$ -human chorionic gonadotropin (free  $\beta$ -hCG). The risk from the biochemical analytes are combined with the risk from nuchal translucency and age to generate an overall risk assessment. This test is currently sent to Australia for analysis. An integrated test consisting of first trimester blood, second trimester blood test and an NT ultrasound scan test has been found to provide the highest pickup rate, and this can also be provided. In cases where NT scan is not available or performed, the first and second trimester blood tests can be done on their own.

For further information, please contact Dianne Webster, Director of National Testing Centre, LabPlus.

### Carbohydrate-deficient transferrin (CDT): change of method

Please note that LabPlus is no longer performing CDT tests, and these are now being sent to Canterbury Health Laboratories. The method is different, and any apparent changes should be interpreted with caution, as there may be method-dependent differences. For any queries over the interpretation of results please contact Dr James Davidson, Chemical Pathology Clinical Head on ext 7301 or by email ([jamesd@adhb.govt.nz](mailto:jamesd@adhb.govt.nz)).

### Changes to tissue autoantibody testing

Currently, a request for tissue antibodies will result in testing for the following antibody specificities:

Salivary gland, Parietal cell, Smooth muscle, Adrenal and Mitochondrial.

From the 11<sup>th</sup> May, Salivary gland and Adrenal antibodies will not be included under the tissue group due to changes in the tissue substrates used in the immunofluorescent procedures.

Salivary gland antibody testing will be discontinued.

Investigations for adrenal antibodies / Addison's disease will continue to be offered however, a specific request will be required.

The prices for tissue autoantibodies and adrenal antibodies are \$17 and \$118 (excluding GST) respectively

For further information, please contact any of the following clinical / senior technical staff in the department of Virology and Immunology:

Dr. Rohan Ameratunga – Clinical Immunologist – ext: 6113

Anthony Brown – Technical Specialist – ext: 6108

Paul Austin – Section Leader - ext: 23006