

## Physicians' Lab Update / Newsletter August 2013

### Semen Analysis Terminology Change

In compliance with the World Health Organization's 5<sup>th</sup> Edition procedure for Semen Analysis, LifeLabs will be changing the terminology used when reporting the number of sperms present. Sperm Count will be replaced with Sperm Concentration. The result line on the report will read SPERM CONC. The unit of measure will remain the same. Sperm concentration will be reported in giga per litre. This change will be effective in the latter part of August.

*Jan Cox, Technologist and Dr. Ekram Zayed, Head: Hematopathology*

### Welcoming Dr. Khaled Ramadan

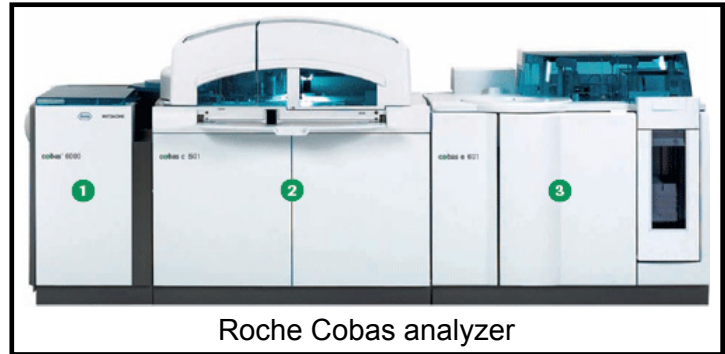
LifeLabs is pleased to announce that Dr. Khaled Ramadan will be joining the Hematopathology group at the Burnaby Reference Laboratory in August 2013 on a part-time basis for the duration of the integration process with BC Bio. Dr. Ramadan received his medical degree in 1997 from Tripoli University in Libya and completed his training in Internal Medicine in Ireland where he obtained his certificates from the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland (MRCPI) in 2000 and certificate of completion of General Professional Training (GPT) in Internal Medicine. He completed his hematology / hematopathology training in the UK with Membership of the Royal College of Pathologists of the UK (MRCPath) granted in 2004. He became a fellow of the Royal College of Pathologists of the UK (FRCPath) in 2008 and a fellow of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow (FRCPath-Glas) in 2010. Dr. Ramadan did a clinical and research fellowship in lymphoma, leukemia and bone marrow transplant in Vancouver from August 2005 to December 2006. He joined the Division of Hematology at St. Paul's Hospital in January 2007 and currently holds an appointment with the UBC as a Clinical Assistant Professor. In 2010 he became a fellow of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada (FRCPC – Hematopathology). Dr. Ramadan is very dedicated to clinical research, and has 19 peer-reviewed publications in mainstream hematology / oncology journals. He has clinical and research interest in chronic lymphocytic leukemia.



# Chemistry Testing Changes

## Thyroglobulin

Baseline measurements comparing the Siemens Immulite assay to the new Roche Cobas assay for thyroglobulin (TG) and anti-thyroglobulin antibody (ATG) are coming to an end. As of August 5, 2013, TG and ATG results will no longer be reported from the Siemens Immulite analyzer. Most patients



being followed over time should have had the opportunity to see how their results on the new Roche Cobas platform compare to the previous Siemens Immulite platform for future monitoring. Results will continue to be reported from the new Roche Cobas platform for these two assays.

## Androstenedione

Testing will move from the Siemens Immulite immunoassay to a new liquid chromatography tandem mass spectrometry (LC-MS/MS) method this summer. This new method is expected to show a reduction in patient results by about 40% but has the added benefit of being more accurate, precise and less affected by interferences. The reference intervals will be adjusted to reflect the new method. Some delay in testing is being experienced as we transition from one method to another but turnaround times are expected to normalize to less than two weeks in the near future.

## How Will These Changes Affect Ordering?

Ordering processes for TG, ATG and Androstenedione will remain the same.

## Discontinuation of Deoxypyridinoline

With the removal of the Siemens Immulite analyzer, we no longer have a method to test urine deoxypyridinoline crosslinks (D-Pyr). Testing will be discontinued as of September 2013. No other MSP-payable test is available for testing bone health, but LifeLabs does offer C-telopeptide (CTX) testing on a private pay basis. CTX is a commonly used serum bone turnover marker for osteoporosis, and can be ordered as a random sample or before and at three months after starting treatment to monitor effectiveness. For more information please visit our website at [www.lifelabs.com](http://www.lifelabs.com).

*Dr. Kristin Hauff, Clinical Chemist*

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