

Supplementary Table 2

| | HC ^a | SLE ^b | RA ^b |
|---------------------------------|-------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| Characteristic | (n = 50) | (n = 54) | (n = 40) |
| Age ^c | 42.00 ± 8.41 | 41.17 ± 11.65 | 54.85 ± 10.66 |
| Gender | | | |
| Female | 50 | 54 | 40 |
| Disease duration (years) | N.A. ^d | 7.13 ± 7.00 | N.A. |
| SLEDAI | N.A. | 8.88 ± 5.54 | N.A. |
| Current therapy | | | |
| NSAIDs (%) | N.A. | 27.80 | N.A. |
| DMARDs (%) | N.A. | 94.40 | N.A. |
| Other (e.g. steroids) (%) | N.A. | 68.52 | N.A. |
| Clinical tests | | | |
| Anti-ds DNA - positive (%) | N.A. | 52.80 | 0.0 |
| Anti-Sm - positive (%) | N.A. | 20.00 | 0.0 |
| ANA - positive (%) | 0.0 | 82.61 | 47.5 |
| RF - positive (%) | 0.0 | 7.69 | 72.5 |
| Anti-Ro (SSA) - positive (%) | 0.0 | 46.00 | 5.0 |
| Anti-La (SSB) – positive (%) | 0.0 | 16.00 | 0.0 |
| CRP – positive (%) | N.A. | 25.00 | 37.5 |
| ESR – positive (%) | N.A. | 69.23 | 87.5 |

a. HCs were tested by Union Clinical Laboratory in Taiwan: Rheumatoid factor (Latex RF reagent, Siemens Medical Solutions Diagnostics, USA; cutoff of < 15.0 IU/mL), ANA (FLUORO HEPANA Test, Medical & Biological Laboratories, Japan), SSA (BioPlex 2200 ANA, Bio-Rad Laboratories, Hercules, CQA, USA; cutoff of < 100 AU/mL), and SSB (BioPlex 2200 ANA, Bio-Rad Laboratories; cutoff of < 100 AU/mL).

b. Patient samples were analyzed at the Department of Laboratory Medicine, Shuang-Ho Hospital, Taiwan: Rheumatoid factor (Latex RF reagent, Siemens Medical Solutions Diagnostics; cutoff of < 15.0 IU/mL), ANA (FLUORO HEPANA Test, Medical & Biological Laboratories, Japan), SSA (EliA™ Ro FLUOROENZYMEIMMUNOASSAY, Phadia GmbH, Freiburg, Germany; cutoff of < 7.0 IU/mL), and SSB (EliA™ La FLUOROENZYMEIMMUNOASSAY, Phadia GmbH; cutoff of < 7.0 IU/mL), anti-dsDNA:(EliA™ ds DNA FLUOROENZYMEIMMUNOASSAY, Phadia GmbH, Freiburg, Germany; cutoff of < 10 IU/mL), anti-Sm:(EliA™ SmD^P FLUOROENZYMEIMMUNOASSAY, Phadia GmbH, Freiburg, Germany; cutoff of < 7.0 IU/mL), CRP (CardioPhase® hsCRP, SIEMENS, Munich, Germany; cutoff of < 0.5 mg/dL) and ESR (VACUETTE®, Greiner Bio-One, Kremsmünster, Austria; cutoff of < 10 mm/1 hr).

c. HC vs. RA, $p < 0.0001$; SLE vs. RA, $p < 0.0001$.

d. N.A., Not available.