Supplementary Material

Table S1. Comparisons of *sjTRECs* dCt levels between RA, SLE and healthy individuals

Characteristic		Healthy individuals (no.=85)		RA patients (no.=21)		SLE (no.=30)		Test	P
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%		
Gender	Females	49	57.65	13	61.90	20	66.67	$X^2 = 78$	0.68
	Males	36	42.35	8	38.10	10	33.33		
Age (years)	Subadults (<18)	25	29.41	0	0.00	0	0.00	FET	<0.001
	Young adults (18-34)	23	27.06	8	38.10	21	70.00		
	Middle age (35-49)	21	24.71	7	33.33	7	23.33		
	Older age (50->60)	16	18.82	6	28.57	2	6.67		
	Mean ±SD Range	31.79±18.19 3-71		40.81±13.86 21-70		30.93±9.15 19-55		F = 2.99	0.05
dCt values	Mean ±SD Range	-9.62±2.93 (-15.72)-(-3.71)		-12.80±2.54[a] (-18.98)-(-9.21)		-10.88±4.85 (-21.84)-(-4.72)		F=7.79	0.0006

X^2: Chi-square test; FET: Fisher Exact Test; F: One Way Analysis Of Variance (ANOVA)
P: Probability, statistically significant at P<0.05
a: significant difference compared to healthy individuals

Table S2. Correlation between dCT levels of *sjTRECs* and the laboratory data / disease duration in autoimmune patients

	No.	Mean ±SD Range	dCt ($Ct_{TBP}-Ct_{sjTREC}$) values	
			r	P
ESR	90	44.42±20.54 8-90	-0.12	0.25
CRP	90	25.27±17.73 5-60	-0.13	0.23
RF (U/ml)	17	70.59±26.37 32-120	-0.14	0.58
ACPA	19	39.6±35.48 0.5-100	-0.17	0.47
C3	30	86.9±20.49 11-117	-0.11	0.56
C4	30	11.01±5.13 3-19.2	-0.09	0.63
Anti dsDNA	30	58.85±20.24 12.2-98.2	**-0.37**	**0.04**
Disease duration (years)	90	4.80±3.32 0.5-16	-0.15	0.17

r: Pearson correlation coefficient; P: Probability, significant correlations at P<0.05.