* Open OPTIMA, click your group from the users menu, then click “RUN”.
* Open plate reader by pushing the button on the machine and place your plate on the tray so you can read the letters and numbers. Push the button on the machine again to have the tray retract back into the machine.
* When ready to take a reading, click the traffic light on the top left side of the program window.
* It will now ask you to select a test program: select the program called **Repeatability**; click ok.
* On the next menu screen, name the file (choose a file name specific to yourselves), select protocol and method as the secondary identifiers, and click start measurement.
* Where the traffic light was, there will be an absorbance graph. Click this once to see your data being collected in real time.
* Make sure the values that are showing up are absorbance values. This is on the bottom right hand side of the screen.
* When the reader has concluded collecting data, simply click close. (Do not push save – it doesn’t do what you hope it does. It turns your data into a jpeg file!).
* Your data should be in a csv file in your Wahoo folder waiting for you to analyze it! Save it as an Excel (xlsx) file to the desktop. Make a note in your notebook of the file name and what’s in it.