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## Peter Mac Goes Online For Breast Cancer Research

Global Health has launched an online breast cancer database for the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre in Melbourne.

Known as kConFab (Kathleen Cuningham Foundation Consortium for research into familial breast cancer), it is the world's largest resource for investigating breast cancer.

Based at Peter MacCallum, kConFab is an enormous collection of information about families across Australia and New Zealand with a history of breast cancer. kConFab itself is not a research organization in the usual sense. Instead it is a world wide resource for scientists who are investigating genetic causes of the disease.

The aim of kConFab is to make available data and bio-specimens to researchers all around the world who are investigating familial aspects of breast and breast/ovarian cancer.

In 1997 kConFab began enrolling families with a strong history of the disease. After five years of gathering data, and with nearly 40 research projects using the information, it became evident it was time to put the data online. Global Health's professional services team won the contract to produce a new web database.

Project Manager at kConFab, Eveline Niedermayr, said going online had made a huge difference.

"I am excited about this because it is so user friendly. It is the same for all the research nurses. They report how easy it is."

Ms Niedermayr said, "Now we can instantly verify information. The new system saves us time and is very accurate. The old way was not always so".

Vikas David is Solution Architect and Project Manager for Global Health Professional Services. He said the kConFab project had to be designed and built from the ground up.

He said it was a challenging project but it was delivered on time and within budget.

Eveline Niedermayr said every state in Australia and a few sites in New Zealand were remotely connected to a server hosted at Peter MacCallum hospital. "When we finally went online it was almost an anti-climax. We were expecting something to go wrong, but nothing did.

"Global Health have a 'can do' attitude. We have worked with other developers, who expect us to fit their product, whereas Global Health were able to provide a solution for whatever requirement we presented them", Ms Niedermayr said.

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Working Systems Solutions Limited  
ABN 75 091 377 892

Level 11 607 Bourke Street Melbourne, Victoria 3000 Australia  
t 61 3 9675 0600 f 61 3 9675 0699 e info@ws.com.au w www.ws.com.au

**Further information**

Vikas David

Global Health Ltd.

+61 3 9675 0608

0410 624 336

[vikas.david@global-health.com](mailto:vikas.david@global-health.com)

**Background****About Global Health**

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Level 11 607 Bourke Street Melbourne, Victoria 3000 Australia

t 61 3 9675 0600 f 61 3 9675 0699 e [info@ws.com.au](mailto:info@ws.com.au) w [www.ws.com.au](http://www.ws.com.au)