



Mr. Paul White
Manager Informatics Systems Development
University of Western Australia
Ground Floor, B Block
QE-II Medical Centre
Hospital Avenue
Nedlands WA 6009
AUSTRALIA

19th May 2009

Dear Paul,

As Manager of the Western Australian DNA Bank (WADB) I am pleased to provide you with this letter of support for the Western Australian Genetic Epidemiology Resource (WAGER).

The WADB is a National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) Enabling facility which provides the infrastructure, consumables and laboratory personnel for low cost biospecimen processing and dual-site storage of human DNA samples in Western Australia for medical research purposes. The WADB itself does not recruit these donors, but stores DNA for medical researcher's who have collected a DNA sample from consenting donors participating in ethically approved research studies.

The decision was made at the time the WADB was founded to utilise WAGER's Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS) as the core application for managing the WADB's biospecimen repository. The cost of purchasing , configuring and maintaining a commercial off-the-shelf LIMS package that could also meet the WADB's specific requirements was deemed to be cost-prohibitive. WAGER has been instrumental in providing the WADB with a storage and management system for biospecimens in WA that meets best-practice standards.

Over the course of the last 3 years WAGER has become an indispensable resource for the WADB, not only providing cost-effective access to LIMS software, but also providing a high level of technical and data support. During that time the WAGER informatics team have made significant improvements to the LIMS software to facilitate the integration of new WADB clients and the smooth operation of the WADB facility. The WADB currently employs 4 full-time laboratory staff and now manages more than 33,000 biospecimen samples from more than 30 studies using the WAGER LIMS.

I strongly support the continuation of WAGER in both Western Australia and as a national facility. WAGER is an essential component of our plans to eventually have a physical presence in other states.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Marion Macnish PhD