

Caricom to launch new health agency in Trinidad

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(AP)—A Caribbean trade bloc says it has merged five different health research agencies into a single office that has already attracted nearly \$10 million in aid.

Caricom spokeswoman Myrna Bernard says the Caribbean [Public Health Agency](#) will be based in Trinidad and start operating next year. She said Thursday that the agency has received \$5 million from the U.S. [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#), \$2 million from the European Union and \$2.5 million from Canada's government to establish a bio-safety laboratory.

Caricom's 15 member states also are expected to make annual contributions to the agency's budget.

Trinidadian doctor Carl Hospedales has been appointed the agency's new executive director.

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