

Caricom to launch new health agency in Trinidad

December 20 2012

(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 <u>Public Health</u> <u>Agency</u> will be based in Trinidad and start operating next year. She said Thursday that the agency has received \$5 million from the U.S. <u>Centers</u> <u>for Disease Control and Prevention</u>, \$2 million from the European Union and \$2.5 million from Canada's government to establish a biosafety 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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Citation: Caricom to launch new health agency in Trinidad (2012, December 20) retrieved 4 May 2024 from <u>https://medicalxpress.com/news/2012-12-caricom-health-agency-trinidad.html</u>

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