

TRUST Every Result

Caribbean Med Labs Foundation

Media Kit.

**Mobilising Support for Lab
Regulation in the Caribbean.**



Let's regulate
our local labs

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Campaign Overview.

For Over 20 Years the Caribbean Med Labs Foundation, Regional Governments and Development Organizations have been working together to increase Laboratory Regulation in the region.

We have come a long way, **and we still have further to go.**

Today, **less than 10% of Caribbean Labs are Regulated**, making laboratory regulation a pressing need in our region, a need that affects the health and well-being of every person living in and visiting the Caribbean.

This need became even more evident during the COVID pandemic, as the critical importance of laboratories to addressing public health threats, and to ensuring readiness for future pandemics was clearly demonstrated.

The **Trust Every Result Campaign will be launched on 21 September, 2023.** It is a call to action, a call to ensure that every laboratory result, whether from a clinical or public health laboratory, can be trusted.

The Caribbean Med Labs Foundation Trust Every Result Campaign aims to address the pressing need for structured regulation and control of Caribbean medical laboratories at both the national and regional levels.

Our campaign was designed to mobilize widespread community support for laboratory regulation throughout the region.

Dr. the Honourable Ralph Gonzalves, Prime Minister of St Vincent and the Grenadines, has kindly consented to champion the cause of laboratory regulation across the Caribbean. He has also provided a brief advocacy message to support this effort and to alert his fellow Prime Ministers to the urgency of this initiative.

We firmly believe that people living in Caribbean Communities deserve to **TRUST EVERY RESULT** coming out of regional labs. To achieve this, it is crucial to ensure that labs follow rules and regulations that prioritize and protect the well-being of our populations.

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How We Got here.



1990s CAREC Initiative Quality Assurance Initiative for HIV Testing

Advocacy for medical and public health laboratory improvement in the Caribbean began in earnest in the early 1990s with dedicated regional and international efforts to strengthen lab support for HIV/AIDS control and prevention.

In this era, quality assurance (QA) initiatives largely focused on HIV laboratory diagnostic testing that saw significant levels of resources invested in improving the quality of diagnostics for HIV/AIDS programme support. Regulation of private and public sector laboratories was not on the regional agenda during this period.



2011-2015 CMLF - PANCAP GF HIV Laboratory Networks Lab Policy and Regulation

CMLF's advocacy efforts from 2011 onwards, supported by the Global Fund (GF) for HIV/AIDS, Malaria & TB, led, for the first time, to the introduction of a more studied and strategic approach to laboratory development.

This resulted in the endorsement by Ministers of Health and Chief Medical Officers of a regional framework for national laboratory policy development, as well as the design of legislation for regulation of medical laboratories.

Development of strategic and network development plans involving, for the first time, a wide spectrum of multidisciplinary laboratory stakeholders in all GF Project countries was also an outcome of this intervention. Persistent advocacy for the introduction of dedicated Quality focal points/coordinators in the Project's national laboratories was largely successful and increased the focus on QMS implementation.



2002-2007 CAREC EU-funded Project for Strengthening of Medical Laboratory Services

In 2002 with the launch of a Project (Strengthening of Medical Laboratory Services in the Caribbean 2002- 2007), funded by the European Union (EU), under the umbrella of the Caribbean Epidemiology Centre (CAREC), the push towards regional medical and public health laboratory quality improvement began in earnest with an expanded focus on laboratory quality management systems (QMS) development in some 23 Caribbean countries.

Through persistent and sustained Project advocacy efforts, the issue of laboratory accreditation was placed squarely on the agenda of Regional Ministers of Health and Chief Medical Officers at the regional CARICOM and PAHO levels as well as on the agendas of Ministries of Health and Laboratory Management and staff at the national levels.

How We Got here.

continued



2016 to date CMLF Advocacy with policy makers for adoption of Lab Policy and Legislation

Continued advocacy with countries led to the development of national laboratory policies in all GF countries in 2014-2015, based on the generic regional framework endorsed under the 2011-2015 PANCAP GF grant.

Draft legislation was also developed and both national policies and legislation were refined by CMLF in consultation with relevant country stakeholders under the OECS GF grants 2016-2022.



2022 - St. Vincent & The Grenadines Leads the Way

In 2022, the St. Vincent & the Grenadines Government spearheaded the OECS laboratory transformative process by introducing the national laboratory policy as well as passing legislation to regulate medical laboratories.

Cabinets in several other OECS countries – Antigua and Barbuda, Grenada, and St. Lucia - have adopted national laboratory policies.



2023 - Trust Every Result Campaign Launch of the The Trust Every Result Campaign.

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TRUST

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Join the Movement for Laboratory Regulation.

We call upon governments, laboratory providers, and communities to unite in making laboratory regulation the norm in the Caribbean. With over 80% of medical decisions dependent on laboratory results, it is imperative that we act urgently.

We encourage every member of every Caribbean community to sign the digital petition at www.trusteveryresult.com

Thank you in advance for raising awareness about the critical need for laboratory regulation in the Caribbean. Your involvement will help us ensure that **every result can be trusted, safeguarding the health and well-being of our communities.**

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 Caribbean Med Labs Foundation
The Regional Champion for Best Practice in Medical Laboratory Services
CMEDLABSFOUNDATION.COM

 Organisation of
Eastern Caribbean States
