FORM 4

UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

	OMB APPRO	DVAL
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Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue. See Instruction 1(b).

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person* STARK STEVAN R						2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol LABORATORY CORP OF AMERICA HOLDINGS [LH]								heck all	l applica Director Officer (able)) Perso	on(s) to Issu 10% Ow Other (s	ner
(Last) 430 S. SPI	,	rst) (l		3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year) 01/07/2004								A 1	below) Exe	ecutive V	below) tive Vice President				
(Street)	treet) URLINGTON NC 27215					4. If Amendment, Date of Original Filed (Month/Day/Year)								S. Individual or Joint/Group Filing (Check Applicable Line) X Form filed by One Reporting Person Form filed by More than One Reporting Person					
(City)	(St		Zip)																
Table I - Non-Deriva 1. Title of Security (Instr. 3) 2. Transactio Date (Month/Day/N						on 2A. Deemed Execution Date,		ate,	3. Transaction Code (Instr.		4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed Of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and		(A) or	5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following		s Ily ollowing	6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)		7. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership
									Code	v	Amount	(A) or (D)	Price	T	eported ransacti nstr. 3 a	on(s)			(Instr. 4)
Common S	Stock ⁽¹⁾	004	04		M		8,000	A	\$26.703	031 ⁽²⁾ 89,55		0.96(3)		D					
Common S	004	04			M		14,800	A	\$10.31	125 104,55		50.96 ⁽³⁾		D					
Common S	Stock ⁽¹⁾	004)4		S		22,800	D	\$38	\$38 81,5		0.96(3)		D					
		٦	Table I								sposed of, , convertik			y Own	ned				
1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 3)	2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security	ise (Month/Day/Year)	if any	emed tion Date, n/Day/Year)	4. Transa Code (8)			ative rities ired sed (Instr.	Expiration I (Month/Day			7. Title and Amoun of Securities Underlying Derivative Security (Instr. 3 and 4)		Deriv Secu		9. Number derivative Securities Beneficial Owned Following Reported Transaction (Instr. 4)	e	10. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)	11. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)
					Code	de V ((D)	Date Exercisable		Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares	ber					
Non- qualified Stock Options ⁽¹⁾⁽⁴⁾	\$26.7031 ⁽²⁾	01/07/2004			M			8,000	08/17	7/2003	08/17/2010	Commor Stock	8,000	\$26.7	7031 ⁽²⁾	0		D	
Non- qualified Stock	\$10.3125	01/07/2004			M			14,800	02/09	9/2003	02/10/2010	Common Stock	14,800	\$10	.3125	0		D	

Explanation of Responses:

- 1. Pursuant to a plan in accordance with Rule 10b5-1 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.
- 2. Actual exercise price was \$26.703125. The Edgar system truncates the price to only four decimal places.
- 3. Amount shown reflects a 2-for-1 stock split effective on May 10, 2002. Includes 122.5381 shares acquired on December 31, 2003 under the Laboratory Corporation of America Holdings 1997 Employee Stock
- 4. Common Stock purchase option granted under the Laboratory Corporation of America Holdings 2000 Stock Incentive Plan.
- 5. Common Stock purchase option granted under the National Health Laboratories Incorporated 1994 Stock Option Plan.

/s/ Bradford T. Smith, Attorney-01/09/2004 in-Fact for Stevan R. Stark

** Signature of Reporting Person Date

Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly.

- * If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, see Instruction 4 (b)(v).
- ** Intentional misstatements or omissions of facts constitute Federal Criminal Violations See 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a).

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, see Instruction 6 for procedure.

Persons who respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB Number.