

**UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**
Washington, D.C. 20549

**FORM S-8
REGISTRATION STATEMENT**
*UNDER
THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933*

Laboratory Corporation of America Holdings
(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware
(State or other jurisdiction of
incorporation or Organization)

358 South Main Street, Burlington, North Carolina
(Address of Principal Executive Offices)

13-3757370
(I.R.S. Employer
Identification No.)

27215
(Zip Code)

Laboratory Corporation of America Holdings 1997 Employee Stock Purchase Plan
(Full titles of the plans)

F. Samuel Eberts III
Senior Vice President, Chief Legal Officer and Secretary
Laboratory Corporation of America Holdings
358 South Main Street
Burlington, North Carolina 27215
(Name and address of agent for service)

(336) 229-1127
(Telephone number, including area code, of agent for service)

Copies to:
Michael J. Silver
William I. Intner
Hogan Lovells US LLP
100 International Drive, Suite 2000
Baltimore, Maryland 21202
(410) 659-2700

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, a non-accelerated filer, or a smaller reporting company. See the definitions of "large accelerated filer," "accelerated filer" and "smaller reporting company" in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act. (Check one):

- Large accelerated filer Accelerated filer
Non-accelerated filer (Do not check if a smaller reporting company) Smaller reporting company

CALCULATION OF REGISTRATION FEE

Title of securities to be registered	Amount to be registered	Proposed maximum offering price per share	Proposed maximum aggregate offering price	Amount of registration fee
Common Stock, par value \$0.10 per share	1,800,000 Shares (1)(2)	\$87.62(3)	\$157,716,000 (3)	\$18,074.25

- (1) Pursuant to General Instruction E of Form S-8, this Registration Statement covers the registration of 1,800,000 additional shares of Common Stock authorized for issuance under the Laboratory Corporation of America Holdings 1997 Employee Stock Purchase Plan (the “**Plan**”). Four million five hundred thousand (4,500,000) shares of Common Stock were previously registered on a Registration Statement on Form S-8 (Registration No. 333-115905, filed on May 26, 2004).
- (2) Pursuant to Rule 416 under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the “**Securities Act**”), this Registration Statement shall also cover any additional shares of common stock that become issuable under the Plan by reason of any stock dividend, stock split, recapitalization or any other similar transaction effected without the receipt of consideration that results in an increase in the number of our outstanding shares of common stock.
- (3) Estimated solely for the purpose of calculating the registration fee in accordance with Rule 457(h)(1) and (c) under the Securities Act. The proposed maximum aggregate offering price is based upon the average of the high and low sale prices of the Laboratory Corporation of America Holdings common stock as reported on the New York Stock Exchange on April 25, 2012.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This Registration Statement on Form S-8 is being filed to register 1,800,000 additional shares of Common Stock authorized for issuance under the Laboratory Corporation of America Holdings 1997 Employee Stock Purchase Plan, as amended (the "**Plan**").

Four million five hundred thousand (4,500,000) shares of Common Stock were previously registered on a Registration Statement on Form S-8 (Registration No. 333-115905, filed on May 26, 2004) (the "**Prior Form S-8**"). As permitted by General Instruction E to Form S-8, this Registration Statement incorporates by reference the contents of the Prior Form S-8.

PART II

INFORMATION REQUIRED IN THE REGISTRATION STATEMENT

Item 3. Incorporation of Documents by Reference.

The following documents, which have been filed by Laboratory Corporation of America Holdings (the “**Company**”) with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the “**Commission**”), are incorporated in this Registration Statement by reference:

- (a) The Company’s Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2011.
- (b) The Company’s Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended March 31, 2012.
- (c) The Company’s Current Reports on Form 8-K filed on April 27, 2012 and May 2, 2012.
- (d) The description of the Company’s common stock, filed in the Company’s Registration Statement on Form 8-B filed on July 1, 1994, as amended by Amendment No. 1 thereto dated April 27, 1995, under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the “**Exchange Act**”), and any report filed for the purpose of updating such descriptions.

All documents subsequently filed by the Company pursuant to Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 and 15(d) of the Exchange Act, prior to the filing of a post-effective amendment which indicates that all securities offered hereby have been sold or which deregisters all securities then remaining unsold, shall be deemed to be incorporated by reference herein and to be a part hereof from the date of filing of such documents.

Any statement contained in a document incorporated or deemed to be incorporated by reference herein shall be deemed to be modified or superseded for purposes of this Registration Statement to the extent that a statement contained herein or in any other subsequently filed document which also is or is deemed to be incorporated by reference herein modifies or supersedes such statement. Any statement so modified or superseded shall not be deemed, except as so modified or superseded, to constitute a part of this Registration Statement.

Item 6. Indemnification of Directors and Officers.

As authorized by Section 145 of the General Corporation Law of the State of Delaware (“**Delaware Corporation Law**”), each director and officer of the Registrant may be indemnified by the Registrant against expenses (including attorney’s fees, judgments, fines, and amounts paid in settlement) actually and reasonably incurred in connection with the defense or settlement of any threatened, pending, or completed legal proceedings in which he/she is involved by reason of the fact that he/she is or was a director or officer of the Registrant; provided that he/she acted in good faith and in a manner that he/she reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the best interest of the Registrant; and, with respect to any criminal action or proceeding, that he/she had no reasonable cause to believe that his/her conduct was unlawful. If the legal proceeding, however, is by or in the right of the Registrant, the director or officer may not be indemnified in respect of any claim, issue, or matter as to which he shall have adjudged to be liable for negligence or misconduct in the performance of his duty to the Registrant unless a court determines otherwise.

Section 102(b)(7) of the Delaware Corporation Law provides that a corporation may eliminate or limit the personal liability of a director to the corporation or its stockholders for monetary damages for breach of fiduciary duty as a director, provided that such provision shall not eliminate or limit the liability of a director (i) for any breach of the director’s duty of loyalty to the corporation or its stockholders, (ii) for acts or omissions not in good faith or which involve intentional misconduct or a knowing violation of law, (iii) for willful or negligent conduct in paying dividends or repurchasing stock out of other than lawfully available funds, or (iv) for any transaction from which the director derived an improper personal benefit. No such provision shall eliminate or limit the liability of a director for any act or omission occurring prior to the date when such provision becomes effective.

Article Fifth of the Certificate of Incorporation of the Registrant provides that no director of the Registrant shall be personally liable to the Registrant or its stockholders for monetary damages for any breach of his fiduciary duty as director; provided, however, that such clause shall not apply to any liability of a director (i) for any breach of such director's duty of loyalty to the Registrant or its stockholders, (ii) for acts or omissions not in good faith or which involve intentional misconduct or a knowing violation of law, (iii) pursuant to Section 174 of the Delaware Corporation Law or (iv) for any transaction from which the director derived an improper personal benefit. In addition, the provisions of Article VII of the Registrant's By-laws provide that the Registrant shall indemnify persons entitled to be indemnified to the fullest extent permitted by the Delaware Corporation Law.

The Registrant maintains policies of officers' and directors' liability insurance in respect of acts or omissions of current and former officers and directors of the Registrant, its subsidiaries, and "constituent" companies that have been merged with the Registrant.

Item 8. Exhibits.

Reference is made to the attached Exhibit Index, which is incorporated by reference herein.

Item 9. Undertakings.

(a) The undersigned registrant hereby undertakes:

(1) To file, during any period in which offers or sales are being made, a post-effective amendment to this Registration Statement:

(i) To include any prospectus required by Section 10(a)(3) of the Securities Act;

(ii) To reflect in the prospectus any facts or events arising after the effective date of the Registration Statement (or most recent post-effective amendment thereof) which, individually or in the aggregate, represent a fundamental change in the information set forth in the Registration Statement. Notwithstanding the foregoing, any increase or decrease in volume of securities offered (if the total dollar value of securities offered would not exceed that which was registered) and any deviation from the low or high end of the estimated maximum offering range may be reflected in the form of prospectus filed with the Commission pursuant to Rule 424(b) if, in the aggregate, the changes in volume and price represent no more than a 20 percent change in the maximum aggregate offering price set forth in the "Calculation of Registration Fee" table in the effective registration statement; and

(iii) To include any material information with respect to the plan of distribution not previously disclosed in the Registration Statement or any material change to such information in the Registration Statement;

provided, however, that paragraphs (a)(1)(i) and (a)(1)(ii) do not apply if the Registration Statement is on Form S-8 and the information required to be included in a post-effective amendment by those paragraphs is contained in periodic reports filed with or furnished to the Commission by the registrant pursuant to Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the Exchange Act that are incorporated by reference in the Registration Statement.

(2) That, for the purpose of determining any liability under the Securities Act, each such post-effective amendment shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof.

(3) To remove from registration by means of a post-effective amendment any of the securities being registered which remain unsold at the termination of the offering.

(b) The undersigned registrant hereby undertakes that, for purposes of determining any liability under the Securities Act, each filing of the registrant's annual report pursuant to Section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Exchange Act (and, where applicable, each filing of an employee benefit plan's annual report pursuant to Section 15(d) of the Exchange Act) that is incorporated by reference in the Registration Statement shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered herein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof.

(c) Insofar as indemnification for liabilities arising under the Securities Act may be permitted to directors, officers and controlling persons of the registrant pursuant to the foregoing provisions, or otherwise, the registrant has been advised that in the opinion of the Commission such indemnification is against public policy as expressed in the Securities Act and is, therefore, unenforceable. In the event that a claim for indemnification against such liabilities (other than the payment by the registrant of expenses incurred or paid by a director, officer or controlling person of the registrant in the successful defense of any action, suit or proceeding) is asserted by such director, officer or controlling person in connection with the securities being registered, the registrant will, unless in the opinion of its counsel the matter has been settled by controlling precedent, submit to a court of appropriate jurisdiction the question whether such indemnification by it is against public policy as expressed in the Securities Act and will be governed by the final adjudication of such issue.

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act, the registrant certifies that it has reasonable grounds to believe that it meets all of the requirements for filing on Form S-8 and has duly caused this Registration Statement to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized, in the City of Burlington, State of North Carolina, on May 2, 2012.

Laboratory Corporation of America Holdings

By: /s/ David P. King

Name: David P. King

Title: President, Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of the Board of Directors

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act, this Registration Statement on Form S-8 has been signed by the following persons on May 2, 2012 in the capacities indicated.

Name	Title
<u>/s/ David P. King</u> David P. King	President, Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of the Board of Directors (Principle Executive Officer)
<u>/s/ William B. Hayes</u> William B. Hayes	Executive Vice President, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer (Principle Financial Officer)
<u>/s/ Kerri B. Anderson*</u> Kerri B. Anderson	Director
<u>/s/ Jean-Luc Belingard*</u> Jean-Luc Belingard	Director
<u>/s/ N. Anthony Coles, Jr.*</u> Bradford T. Smith	Director
<u>/s/ Wendy E. Lane*</u> Wendy E. Lane	Director
<u>/s/ Thomas P. Mac Mahon*</u> Thomas P. Mac Mahon	Director
<u>/s/ Robert E. Mittelstaedt, Jr.*</u> Robert E. Mittelstaedt, Jr.	Director
<u>/s/ Arthur H. Rubenstein*</u> Arthur H. Rubenstein	Director

/s/ M. Keith Weikel*

M. Keith Weikel

Director

R. Sanders Williams, M.D.

Director

* F. Samuel Eberts III, by his signing his name hereto, does hereby sign this report on behalf of the directors of the Registrant after whose typed names asterisks appear, pursuant to powers of attorney duly executed by such directors and filed with the Commission.

/s/ F. Samuel Eberts III

F. Samuel Eberts III

Attorney-In-Fact

EXHIBIT INDEX

<u>Exhibit Number</u>	<u>Description</u>
5.1	Opinion of F. Samuel Eberts III.
10.1	Laboratory Corporation of America Holdings 1997 Employee Stock Purchase Plan (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 99.1 the Company's Registration Statement on Form S-8 filed with the Commission on December 13, 1996, File No. 333-17793).
10.2	Amendment to the Laboratory Corporation of America Holdings 1997 Employee Stock Purchase Plan (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 4.1 to the Company's Registration Statement on Form S-8, filed with the Commission on January 10, 2000, File No. 333-94331).
10.3	Amendment to the Laboratory Corporation of America Holdings 1997 Employee Stock Purchase Plan (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 4.2 to the Company's Registration Statement on Form S-8, filed with the Commission on May 26, 2004, File No. 333-115905).
10.4	Amendment to the Laboratory Corporation of America Holdings 1997 Employee Stock Purchase Plan (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.2 to the Company's Form 8-K filed with the Commission on May 2, 2012)
23.1	Consent of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP.
23.2	Consent of F. Samuel Eberts III (included in Exhibit 5.1).
24.1	Power of Attorney.

May 2, 2012

Board of Directors
Laboratory Corporation of America Holdings
358 South Main Street
Burlington, North Carolina 27215

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I am acting as counsel to Laboratory Corporation of America Holdings, a Delaware corporation (the "**Company**"), in connection with its registration statement on Form S-8 (the "**Registration Statement**") filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission relating to the proposed offering pursuant to the terms of the Laboratory Corporation of America Holdings 1997 Employee Stock Purchase Plan (the "**Plan**") of up to 1,800,000 shares (the "**Shares**") of common stock, par value \$.10 per share (the "**Common Stock**"), in addition to the 4,500,000 shares of Common Stock originally reserved under the Plan and previously registered on the Company's Registration Statements on Forms S-8 (File Nos. 333-115905, 333-17793 and 333-94331), as adjusted to reflect the one-for-ten stock split effective May 4, 2000 and the two-for-one stock splits effective June 11, 2001 and May 10, 2002. This opinion letter is furnished to you at your request to enable you to fulfill the requirements of Item 601(b)(5) of Regulation S-K, 17 C.F.R. § 229.601(b)(5), in connection with the Registration Statement.

For purposes of this opinion letter, I have examined copies of such agreements, instruments and documents as I have deemed an appropriate basis on which to render the opinions hereinafter expressed. In my examination of the aforesaid documents, I have assumed the genuineness of all signatures, the legal capacity of all natural persons, the accuracy and completeness of all documents submitted to me, the authenticity of all original documents, and the conformity to authentic original documents of all documents submitted to me as copies (including telecopies). As to all matters of fact, I have relied on the representations and statements of fact made in the documents so reviewed, and I have not independently established the facts so relied on. This opinion letter is given, and all statements herein are made, in the context of the foregoing.

This opinion letter is based as to matters of law solely on the Delaware General Corporation Law, as amended. I express no opinion herein as to any other laws, statutes, ordinances, rules, or regulations. As used herein, the term "Delaware General Corporation Law, as amended" includes the statutory provisions contained therein, all applicable provisions of the Delaware Constitution and reported judicial decisions interpreting these laws.

I am a member of the Bar of the State of Illinois and, although I am not a member of the Bar of the State of Delaware, I have made such examination of the laws and regulations of the State of Delaware as I have deemed necessary to make the opinions set forth herein.

Based upon, subject to and limited by the foregoing, I am of the opinion that the Shares have been duly authorized by all necessary corporate action on the part of the Company and, following (i) effectiveness of the Registration Statement, (ii) issuance of the Shares pursuant to the terms of the Plan and any applicable forms of agreements used pursuant thereto, and (iii) receipt by the Company of the consideration for the Shares specified in the resolutions of the Board of Directors or a committee of the Board of Directors authorizing the issuance thereof, the Shares will be validly issued and the Shares will be fully paid and nonassessable.

This opinion letter has been prepared for use in connection with the Registration Statement. I assume no obligation to advise you of any changes in the foregoing subsequent to the delivery of this opinion letter.

I hereby consent to the filing of this opinion letter as Exhibit 5.1 to the Registration Statement and to the reference to me under the caption “Legal Matters” in the prospectus constituting a part of the Registration Statement. In giving this consent, I do not thereby admit that I am an “expert” within the meaning of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended.

Very Truly Yours,

/s/ F. Samuel Eberts III

F. Samuel Eberts III
Senior Vice President, Chief Legal Officer
and Secretary

CONSENT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM

We hereby consent to the incorporation by reference in this Registration Statement on Form S-8 of our report dated February 23, 2012 relating to the financial statements, financial statement schedule and the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting, which appears in Laboratory Corporation of America Holdings' Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2011.

/s/ PricewaterhouseCoopers

PricewaterhouseCoopers

Greensboro, NC

May 1, 2012

LABORATORY CORPORATION OF AMERICA HOLDINGS

Power of Attorney

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS that the undersigned Officers and Directors of Laboratory Corporation of America Holdings, a Delaware corporation (the "Corporation"), hereby constitute and appoint David P. King, William B. Hayes and F. Samuel Eberts III, or each of them, as the true and lawful agents and attorneys-in-fact, of the undersigned with full power and authority in said agents and attorneys-in-fact, to sign for the undersigned and in their respective names as Officers and as Directors of the Corporation the Registration Statements on Forms S-8 of the Corporation to be filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and any amendment or amendments to such Registration Statements, relating to securities of the Corporation acquired under or to be offered under the Laboratory Corporation of America Holdings 2012 Omnibus Incentive Plan or the Laboratory Corporation of America Holdings 1997 Employee Stock Purchase Plan, and the undersigned hereby ratify and confirm all acts taken by such agents and attorneys-in-fact, as herein authorized.

<u>Name and Title</u>	<u>Date</u>
<u>/s/ David P. King</u> David P. King President, Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of the Board of Directors	May 1, 2012
<u>/s/ William B. Hayes</u> William B. Hayes Executive Vice President, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer	May 1, 2012
<u>/s/ Kerrii B. Anderson</u> Kerrii B. Anderson Director	May 1, 2012
<u>/s/ Jean-Luc Bélingard</u> Jean-Luc Bélingard Director	May 1, 2012

/s/ N. Anthony Coles, Jr., M.D.
N. Anthony Coles, Jr., M.D.
Director

May 1, 2012

/s/ Wendy E. Lane
Wendy E. Lane
Director

May 1, 2012

/s/ Thomas P. Mac Mahon
Thomas P. Mac Mahon
Director

May 1, 2012

/s/ Robert E. Mittelstaedt, Jr.
Robert E. Mittelstaedt, Jr.
Director

May 1, 2012

/s/ Arthur H. Rubenstein, MBBCh
Arthur H. Rubenstein, MBBCh
Director

May 1, 2012

/s/ M. Keith Weikel, Ph.D.
M. Keith Weikel, Ph.D.
Director

May 1, 2012

R. Sanders Williams, M.D.
Director