FORM 4

## **UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**

Washington, D.C. 20549

Washington, D.C. 20549

## STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP

OMB APPROVAL

OMB Number: 3235-0287
Estimated average burden
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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).

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*  SMITH BRADFORD T							2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol LABORATORY CORP OF AMERICA HOLDINGS [ LH ]									5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable)  Director 10% Owner  X Officer (give title Other (specify				
(Last) (First) (Middle) 430 SOUTH SPRING STREET						3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year) 10/26/2004									EVP, Chf Legal Offcr,Secretary					
(Street) BURLINGTON NC 27215					4. If	4. If Amendment, Date of Original Filed (Month/Day/Year)								Individual or Joint/Group Filing (Check Applicable Line)      X Form filed by One Reporting Person  Form filed by More than One Reporting Person						
(City) (State) (Zip)					rative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Benefic															
		Ta	able I -			1			_	ed, D	-									
				2. Transacti Date (Month/Day		Execution Date			3. Transaction Code (Instr. 8)		4. Securities Acquired (AD Disposed Of (D) (Instr. 3				Following R			: Direct r Indirect str. 4)	7. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership	
								Code	v	Amount	(A) or (D)	Price		3 and 4)	(s) (instr.			(Instr. 4)		
Common Stock <sup>(1)</sup>				10/26/2004				M		46,665	A	\$33.	0625	144,662.1	.481(2)(3)		D			
Common Stock <sup>(1)</sup>				10/26/2004				S		11,343	D	\$4	5.4	133,319.1	9.1481(2)(3)		D			
Common Stock <sup>(1)</sup>				10/26/2004				S		3,293	D	\$4	5.35	130,026.1481(2)(3)			D			
Common Stock <sup>(1)</sup>				10/26/20	/2004				S		5,108	D	\$4	5.25	124,918.1481(2)(3)			D		
Common Stock <sup>(1)</sup> 10/26/20					004	04			S		26,921	D	\$	45	97,997.1481(2)(3)			D		
Table II - Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned (e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)																				
1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 3)	2. Conversior or Exercise Price of Derivative Security	3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Yea	Execu (r) if any	eemed Ition Date,	4. Transa	4. Transaction Code (Instr.		5. Number of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr 3, 4 and 5)			rcisable and Date	7. Title and Amof Securities Underlying Derivative Secu (Instr. 3 and 4)		mount	8. Price of Derivative Security (Instr. 5)	9. Numbe derivative Securities Beneficia Owned Following Reported Transacti (Instr. 4)	Owner Form: Direct or Indi (I) (Ins	Ownership	Beneficial Ownership ect (Instr. 4)	
					Code	v	V (A)		Date Exe	: cisable	Expiration Date	Title	OI N Of	umber						
Non- qualified Stock	\$33.0625	10/26/2004			M			46,66	5 02/0	05/2002	02/05/2011	Comm Stock		6,665	\$33.0625	46,66	7	D		

## **Explanation of Responses:**

- 1. Pursuant to a plan in accordance with Rule 10b5-1 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.
- 2. Amount shown reflects a 2-for-1 stock split effective on May 10, 2002.
- 3. Amount includes 584.7880 shares acquired on June 30, 2004 under the Laboratory Corporation of America Holdings 1997 Employee Stock Purchase Plan.
- $4. \ Common \ stock \ purchase \ option \ granted \ under \ the \ Laboratory \ Corporation \ of \ America \ Holdings \ 2000 \ Stock \ Incentive \ Plan.$

By: /s/ BRADFORD T. SMITH 10/28/2004

\*\* 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.

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