

UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

FORM 8-K

CURRENT REPORT

Pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange
Act of 1934

APRIL 28, 1998

(Date of earliest event reported)

LABORATORY CORPORATION OF AMERICA HOLDINGS

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

DELAWARE

(State or other
jurisdiction or
organization)

1-11353

(Commission
File Number)

13-3757370

(IRS Employer
Identification
Number)

358 SOUTH MAIN STREET, BURLINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA 27215

(Address of principal executive offices)

336-229-1127

(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

ITEM 5. OTHER EVENTS

On April 28, 1998, the Company issued a press release announcing an exclusive partnership with VIRCO, a Belgian-based biotechnology company, to offer blood analysis tests that will tell doctors and their HIV+ patients which drugs are likely to be effective against the individual patient's virus and which are not.

ITEM 7. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS, PRO FORMA FINANCIAL INFORMATION AND EXHIBITS

(c) Exhibit

20 Press release of the Company dated April 28, 1998.

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities and Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

LABORATORY CORPORATION OF AMERICA HOLDINGS

(Registrant)

By: /s/ BRADFORD T. SMITH

Bradford T. Smith
Executive Vice President,
General Counsel, Secretary
and Compliance Officer

Date: May 7, 1998

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Pamela Sherry
Telephone: 336-584-5171,
Ext. 4855

IMPORTANT NEW AIDS ADVANCE IN HIV RESISTANCE TESTING
LabCorp-Registered Trademark- Partners with Virco to
Bring New Technology to U.S.

BURLINGTON, NC, APRIL 28, 1998 _ Laboratory Corporation of America-Registered Trademark- Holdings (LabCorp-Registered Trademark-) (NYSE: LH) today announced an exclusive partnership with VIRCO, a Belgian-based biotechnology company, to offer blood analysis tests that will tell doctors and their HIV+ patients which drugs are likely to be effective against the individual patient's virus and which are not.

As of July, LabCorp will be offering physicians and patients this novel tool, called the Antivirogram-TM-. The tests measure the susceptibility of HIV to all approved anti-retroviral drugs and therefore will help guide the use of multi-drug cocktails for the treatment of HIV/AIDS.

"We believe that this new technology will permit LabCorp to offer the broadest array of testing services to clinicians treating HIV/AIDS patients," said Thomas P. Mac Mahon, President and Chief Executive Officer of LabCorp. "This partnership with VIRCO allows us to add an important weapon to individual HIV patient care."

The availability of this HIV resistance testing brings phenotyping, a method of assessing viral sensitivity (susceptibility) to anti-HIV drugs by measuring the ability of the virus to grow in the presence of each drug, to physicians and their HIV+ patients. Similar phenotyping technology is widely used to evaluate which antibiotics will be most effective against a particular bacterium. VIRCO scientists were the first to design and put into commercial practice a rapid and automated phenotypic test for HIV.

As part of its improved HIV diagnostic and prognostic services, LabCorp is planning to use VIRCO's new phenotyping technology to enhance the analysis of existing genotypic testing, which identifies genetic mutations that can signify drug resistance. As a result of the partnership, LabCorp will have exclusive access to VIRCO's unique HIV resistance database, the first to relate genotypic analysis to phenotypic interpretation.

"The combination of genotypic and phenotypic resistance testing will provide the most comprehensive guide for physicians choosing anti-retroviral therapy for patients with HIV/AIDS. Resistance testing will be an important advance in the management of patients with HIV/AIDS," said Dr. John Mellors, M.D., Associate Professor of Medicine and Director of the HIV/AIDS Program at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center. "It is another tool to help physicians and patients map out long-term treatment strategies."

In addition to stipulating an exclusive arrangement for the marketing of the Antivirogram-TM- tests in the U.S., the agreement with VIRCO will also give LabCorp the exclusive right to offer the test for clinical trial sales in the U.S., Canada, and Europe.

VIRCO is a privately-held high tech/molecular biology company that was founded in 1995 by Rudi Pauwels, Ph.D. and Paul Stoffels, M.D. in Belgium, and Brendan Larder, Ph.D. in the U.K. VIRCO specializes in genomics and bioinformatics applied to disease management and is at the forefront of the development and implementation of complex technologies to monitor HIV drug sensitivity in

infected persons. VIRCO's scientists have extensive experience in the field of antiviral development and drug resistance, having performed phenotypic resistance testing on more than 7,000 samples.

Laboratory Corporation of America-Registered Trademark-Holdings (LabCorp-Registered Trademark-) is a national clinical laboratory organization with revenues of \$1.5 billion in 1997. The Company operates primarily testing facilities nationally, offering more than 1,700 different clinical assays, from routine blood analyses to more sophisticated technologies. LabCorp performs diagnostic tests for physicians, managed-care organizations, hospitals, clinics, long-term care facilities, industrial companies, and other clinical laboratories.

###