

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

DECEMBER 29, 1998

(Date of earliest event reported)

LABORATORY CORPORATION OF AMERICA HOLDINGS

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

DELAWARE	1-11353	13-3757370
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(State or other jurisdiction of incorporation)	(Commission File Number)	(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 December 29, 1998, the Company issued a press release announcing that it has named Richard L. Novak to the newly-created position of executive vice president and chief operating officer (COO). He will continue to report to Thomas P. Mac Mahon, chairman and chief executive officer (CEO).

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

- (c) Exhibit
20 Press release of the Company dated
December 29, 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: January 21, 1999

Laboratory Corporation of America-Registered Trademark- Holdings
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Burlington, NC 27215
Telephone: 336-584-5171

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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LABCORP-REGISTERED TRADEMARK-NAMES CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER

Burlington, NC, December 29, 1998 - Laboratory Corporation of America-Registered Trademark- Holdings (LabCorp-Registered Trademark-) (NYSE: LH) has named Richard L. Novak to the newly-created position of executive vice president and chief operating officer (COO). He will continue to report to Thomas P. Mac Mahon, chairman and chief executive officer (CEO).

Novak, who has been with LabCorp since March, 1997, has served as executive vice president, eastern operations, based in Burlington and is a member of the management and executive committees of the Company. Prior to joining LabCorp, he held various senior management positions with SmithKline Beecham Clinical Laboratories, Inc.

"I am delighted to announce this appointment," said Mac Mahon. "Rich brings to this position a strong knowledge of the business, coupled with impressive strategic and operational capabilities. His unique ability to create a strong team-oriented environment within LabCorp will assist the entire organization in continuing to effectively move toward the objectives established in our strategic plan."

Laboratory Corporation of America-Registered Trademark- Holdings (LabCorp-Registered Trademark-) is a national clinical laboratory with annual revenues of \$1.5 billion in 1997. With more than 18,000 employees and over 200,000 clients nationwide, the company offers more than 1,700 clinical tests, ranging from simple blood analyses to more sophisticated technologies. In addition to the major testing sites, the Center for Molecular Biology and Pathology, LabCorp's leading edge esoteric testing facility located in Research Triangle Park, North Carolina, develops applications for Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) technology, a revolutionary technique used to produce some of the most sensitive diagnostic tests ever developed. LabCorp's clients include physicians, state and federal governments, managed care organizations, hospitals, clinics, long-term care facilities, companies, and other clinical laboratories.

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