

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

JULY 20, 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 July 20, 1998, Laboratory Corporation of America Holdings (the "Company") issued a press release announcing that the Antivirogram-TM- and the VircoGEN-TM-, two new diagnostic testing procedures enabling physicians to evaluate resistance of HIV to antiretroviral drugs, are now available for commercial use exclusively from the Company's facilities in the U.S. These new testing systems are an important advance in optimizing treatment choices in the fight against HIV/AIDS.

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

- (c) Exhibit
20 Press release of the Company dated July 20, 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: August 17, 1998

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HIV DRUG RESISTANCE TESTING PROCEDURES
NOW AVAILABLE IN THE UNITED STATES
--CLINICAL TRIALS INDICATE RESISTANCE TESTING PREDICTS
EFFECTIVENESS OF DRUG THERAPY--

Burlington, NC, July 20, 1998 - Laboratory Corporation of America-Registered Trademark-Holdings (LabCorp-Registered Trademark-) (NYSE:LH) and VIRCO, today announced that the Antivirogram-Trademark- and the VircoGEN-Trademark, two new diagnostic testing procedures enabling physicians to evaluate resistance of HIV to antiretroviral drugs, are now available for commercial use exclusively from LabCorp facilities in the U. S. These new testing systems are an important advance in optimizing treatment choices in the fight against HIV/AIDS.

"Testing resistance in the clinical setting empowers physicians and patients to make rational decisions about drug therapy," said John Mellors, M.D. director of the AIDS Program, University of Pittsburgh Medical Center. "Knowing which medications are most likely to be effective against the HIV virus prior to treatment permits us to make better informed choices."

Data shows a promising indication of the testing systems' ability to predict response to therapy. In outcomes studies using the Antivirogram-Trademark- and VircoGEN-Trademark-, physicians were able to predict antiviral response in antiretroviral experienced patients. One study done in collaboration with the British Columbia Centre for Excellence in HIV/AIDS of 84 patients with extensive prior nucleoside experience, found that patients with "sensitive" virus, as indicated by phenotypic testing, (sensitivity being defined as the ability of drugs to inhibit the virus) were twelve times more likely to respond to ritonavir/saquinavir therapy.

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Patients whose virus was classified "sensitive" by genotypic testing, were four times more likely to respond to the therapy. The study included protease inhibitor (PI)-experienced patients that were switching to the PI combination ritonavir/saquinavir alone or in combination with other antiretroviral therapy as salvage therapy. Phenotyping and genotyping were conducted on isolates from these patients using the Antivirogram-Trademark- and VircoGEN-Trademark-.

"Since the partnership between VIRCO and LabCorp was announced, our team of scientists have been working diligently to bring the Antivirogram-Trademark- and VircoGEN-Trademark- to market," said Dr. Myla Lai-Goldman, Executive Vice President, Chief Scientific Officer and Medical Director of LabCorp. "The data validates the clinical importance of these systems and we are committed to continuing our ongoing work to assess their broad capabilities."

To further substantiate the value of these testing procedures, a large study of 1500 isolates collected from the patients provided an impressive data set to correlate genotypic resistance patterns with phenotypic resistance profiles. While genotyping examines the drug resistance mutations accumulated by the virus and may give an important indication of the possible evolution of resistance, phenotyping measures virus growth in the presence of a drug. When used together, physicians can now assess how each patient is going to respond to given therapy, thus allowing physicians to make more informed decisions when selecting potent therapeutic regimens.

Turnaround time for the VicoGEN-Trademark- is five to 10 working days and three to four weeks for the Antovirogram-Trademark-. LabCorp customer service is available to provide additional information by calling 800-533-0567.

ABOUT THE COMPANIES

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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 primary testing facilities nationally, offering more than 1,700 different clinical assays, from routine blood analyses to more sophisticated technologies. LabCorp performs diagnostic tests and procedures for physicians, managed-care organizations, hospitals, clinics, long-term facilities, industrial companies, and other clinical laboratories.

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 8,000 samples.

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