NOVAK RICHARD L
Form 4
December 30, 2004

# FORM 4

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

OMB APPROVAL

| | |
|---|---|
| OMB Number: | 3235-0287 |
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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).

**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES**

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, Section 17(a) of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person *
NOVAK RICHARD L

(Last) (First) (Middle)

430 SOUTH SPRING STREET

(Street)

BURLINGTON, NC 27215

(City) (State) (Zip)

2. Issuer Name **and** Ticker or Trading Symbol
LABORATORY CORP OF AMERICA HOLDINGS [LH]

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)
12/28/2004

4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

(Check all applicable)

_____ Director _____ 10% Owner
__X__ Officer (give title below) _____ Other (specify below)
EVP & Chief Operating Officer

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line)
_X_ Form filed by One Reporting Person
___ Form filed by More than One Reporting Person

**Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned**

| 1.Title of Security (Instr. 3) | 2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year) | 2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year) | 3. Transaction Code (Instr. 8) | | 4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5) | | | 5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4) | 6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4) | 7. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | Code | V | Amount | (A) or (D) | Price | | | |
| Common Stock (1) | 12/28/2004 | | M | | 11,270 | A | $ 39.34 | 135,927 (2) | D | |
| Common Stock (1) | 12/28/2004 | | S | | 11,270 | D | $ 50 | 124,657 (2) | D | |

Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly.

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SEC 1474 (9-02)

**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. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security | 3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year) | 3A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year) | 4. Transaction Code (Instr. 8) | | 5. Number of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5) | | 6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year) | | 7. Title and Am Underlying Sec (Instr. 3 and 4) | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | Code | V | (A) | (D) | Date Exercisable | Expiration Date | Title | A o N o |
| Non-qualified Stock Options (1) (3) | $ 39.34 | 12/28/2004 | | M | | | 11,270 | 01/07/2003(4) | 01/07/2012 | Common Stock | 1 |

# Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address | Relationships | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Director | 10% Owner | Officer | Other |
| NOVAK RICHARD L<br>430 SOUTH SPRING STREET<br>BURLINGTON, NC 27215 | | | EVP & Chief Operating Officer | |

# Signatures

By: /s/ BRADFORD T. SMITH, Attorney-in-Fact for Richard L. Novak — 12/30/2004

**Signature of Reporting Person — Date

# Explanation of Responses:

* 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).

**(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)** Common stock purchase option granted under the Laboratory Corporation of America Holdings 2000 Stock Incentive Plan.

**(4)** The option vests in three equal installments beginning on the date reflected in this column.

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, *see* Instruction 6 for procedure.
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