

NOVAK RICHARD L
Form 4
December 30, 2004

FORM 4

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

OMB APPROVAL

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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

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)

(Last) (First) (Middle)
430 SOUTH SPRING STREET
(Street)

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)
12/29/2004

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

BURLINGTON, NC 27215

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

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

(City) (State) (Zip)

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 Ownership (Instr. 4)
				(A) or (D)	Price		
Common Stock ⁽¹⁾	12/29/2004		M	8,018	A \$ 39.34	132,675 ⁽²⁾	D
Common Stock ⁽¹⁾	12/29/2004		S	8,018	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)

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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 Amount of Underlying Security (Instr. 3 and 4)
Non-qualified Stock Options (1) (3)	\$ 39.34	12/29/2004		M	8,018	01/07/2003 ⁽⁴⁾ 01/07/2012	Common Stock

Reporting Owners

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

Signatures

By: /s/ BRADFORD T. SMITH, Attorney-in-Fact for Richard L. Novak
Date: 12/31/2004

__Signature of Reporting Person

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. Potential persons who are to respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB number.