

Basel, 16 October 2000

Roche prices the sale of LabCorp shares

End of September Roche has indicated that it plans to register shares of Laboratory Corporation of America Holdings (LabCorp) common stock. Roche has now priced the sale of 3.625 million shares of its financial investment in LabCorp at a price per share of \$ 118.75. Roche has granted the underwriters an option to purchase an additional 375,000 shares to cover over-allotments. Roche's ownership percentage of its financial investment in LabCorp will decrease from around 45% to approximately 34% after the closing of this transaction. If the over-allotment option is exercised Roche's ownership percentage will be approximately 33%. The gross proceeds are approximately 430.5 million \$. Roche intends to use the net proceeds for general corporate purposes.

LabCorp is a national clinical laboratory with annual revenues of \$1.7 billion in 1999. With 18,000 employees and over 100,000 clients nation-wide, the company offers more than 2,000 clinical tests ranging from simple blood analyses to sophisticated molecular diagnostics.

Headquartered in Basel, Switzerland, Roche is one of the world's leading research-oriented healthcare groups in the fields of pharmaceuticals, diagnostics and vitamins. Roche's innovative products and services address prevention, diagnosis and treatment of diseases, thus enhancing people's well-being and quality of life. Roche has approximately 62 000 employees and sells its products in over 170 countries. In the first half of 2000 the company reached sales of 13.7 billion CHF and a net income of 3 billion CHF and invested 1.9 billion CHF in Research and Development.