

Basel, 7 March 2002

**Roche prices the sale of LabCorp shares**

On February 21, 2002 Laboratory Corporation of America Holdings (LabCorp) has filed a registration statement with the Securities and Exchange Commission relating to the offering by Roche Holding of 7 million shares of LabCorp common stock. Roche has now priced the sale of 7 million shares of its financial investment in LabCorp at a price per share of 86.50 USD. Roche has granted the underwriters an option to purchase an additional 700.000 shares to cover over-allotments.

Roche's ownership percentage of its financial investment in LabCorp will decrease from around 15.2% to approximately 5.2% after the closing of this transaction. If the over-allotment option is exercised Roche's ownership percentage will be approximately 4.25%. On the remaining shares Roche has written call options which are expected to reduce Roche's share holder interest down to zero by November 2002.

The gross proceeds are approximately 606 million USD. Roche intends to use the net proceeds for general corporate purposes.

LabCorp is a national clinical laboratory with annual revenues of 2.2 billion USD in 2001. As one of the world's largest clinical laboratories, the Company performs diagnostic procedures on specimens from approximately 281.000 patients each day.

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 products and services address prevention, diagnosis and treatment of diseases, thus enhancing well-being and quality of life.