

CHARLES RIVER LABORATORIES INTERNATIONAL INC
Form DEF 14A
March 31, 2009

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

SCHEDULE 14A

Proxy Statement Pursuant to Section 14(a) of
the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (Amendment No.)

Filed by the Registrant

Filed by a Party other than the Registrant

Check the appropriate box:

- Preliminary Proxy Statement
- Confidential, for Use of the Commission Only (as permitted by Rule 14a-6(e)(2))**
- Definitive Proxy Statement
- Definitive Additional Materials
- Soliciting Material Pursuant to §240.14a-12

CHARLES RIVER LABORATORIES INTERNATIONAL, INC.

(Name of Registrant as Specified In Its Charter)

(Name of Person(s) Filing Proxy Statement, if other than the Registrant)

Payment of Filing Fee (Check the appropriate box):

- No fee required.
- Fee computed on table below per Exchange Act Rules 14a-6(i)(1) and 0-11.
 - (1) Title of each class of securities to which transaction applies:
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 - (4) Proposed maximum aggregate value of transaction:
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(1) Amount Previously Paid:

(2) Form, Schedule or Registration Statement No.:

(3) Filing Party:

(4) Date Filed:

March 31, 2009

Dear Shareholder,

You are cordially invited to attend the 2009 Annual Meeting of Shareholders of Charles River Laboratories International, Inc. to be held at 8:30 a.m. on Thursday, May 7, 2009, at Charles River Laboratories International, Inc., 187 Ballardvale Street, Wilmington, MA 01887.

At the Annual Meeting, ten persons will be elected to the Board of Directors. The Company will also seek shareholder approval of an amendment to the 2007 Incentive Plan to increase the number of shares available for issuance under the Plan by 2,500,000 shares. In addition to the election of directors and approval of the Plan amendment, the Company will also ask shareholders to ratify the selection of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP as the Company's independent registered public accounting firm for fiscal 2009. The Board of Directors recommends the approval of each of these proposals. Such other business will be transacted as may properly come before the Annual Meeting.

Whether you plan to attend the Annual Meeting or not, it is important that your shares are represented. Therefore, we urge you to complete, sign, date and return the enclosed proxy card promptly in accordance with the instructions set forth on the card. This will ensure your proper representation at the Annual Meeting.

Sincerely,

James C. Foster
*Chairman, President and Chief
Executive Officer*

**YOUR VOTE IS IMPORTANT.
PLEASE RETURN YOUR PROXY PROMPTLY.**

Important Notice Regarding the Availability of Proxy Materials for the Shareholder Meeting to be held on May 7, 2009.

This proxy statement and our Annual Report to Shareholders are available at
www.criver.com/annual2009.

In addition, our Annual Report on Form 10-K for fiscal year 2008 can be found at the same website.

CHARLES RIVER LABORATORIES INTERNATIONAL, INC.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS
To be Held on May 7, 2009

To the Shareholders of
Charles River Laboratories International, Inc.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Annual Meeting of Charles River Laboratories International, Inc., a Delaware corporation (the Company), will be held on Thursday, May 7, 2009, at Charles River Laboratories International, Inc., 187 Ballardvale Street, Wilmington, MA 01887, at 8:30 a.m., for the following purposes:

1. To elect the ten persons named in this proxy statement as members to the Board of Directors to hold office until the next Annual Meeting of Shareholders.
2. To approve an amendment to the Company's 2007 Incentive Plan to increase the number of shares of Common Stock for issuance thereunder from 6,300,000 to 8,800,000.
3. To consider and act upon a proposal to ratify the appointment of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP as the Company's independent registered public accounting firm for the fiscal year ending December 26, 2009.
4. To transact such other business as may be properly brought before the Annual Meeting and any adjournments thereof.

The Board of Directors has fixed the close of business on March 19, 2009 as the record date for the determination of shareholders entitled to notice of, and to vote at, the Annual Meeting and at any adjournments thereof.

All shareholders are cordially invited to attend the Annual Meeting. Attendance at the Annual Meeting will be limited to shareholders and those holding proxies from shareholders.

By Order of the Board of Directors

David P. Johst
Corporate Secretary

March 31, 2009

Whether you plan to attend the Annual Meeting or not, you are requested to complete, sign, date and return the enclosed proxy card as soon as possible in accordance with the instructions on the proxy card. A pre-addressed, postage prepaid return envelope is enclosed for your convenience.

**CHARLES RIVER LABORATORIES
INTERNATIONAL, INC.**

**251 Ballardvale Street
Wilmington, MA 01887
(781) 222-6000**

**PROXY STATEMENT
For Annual Meeting of Shareholders
To be Held May 7, 2009**

GENERAL INFORMATION

This Proxy Statement is furnished in connection with the solicitation by the Board of Directors of Charles River Laboratories International, Inc., a Delaware corporation (the Company or Charles River), of proxies, in the accompanying form, to be used at the Annual Meeting of Shareholders to be held at Charles River Laboratories International, Inc., 187 Ballardvale Street, Wilmington, MA 01887 on Thursday, May 7, 2009, at 8:30 a.m., and any adjournments thereof (the Meeting). The Notice of Meeting, this Proxy Statement, the enclosed proxy and the Company's Annual Report to Shareholders for the year ended December 27, 2008 are being mailed to shareholders on or about March 31, 2009. Copies of these documents may also be obtained free of charge through our website at www.criver.com/annual2009.

When proxies in the accompanying form are properly executed and received, the shares represented thereby will be voted at the Meeting in accordance with the directions noted thereon. If no direction is indicated on the proxy, the shares represented thereby will be voted "**FOR**" the election of the Board's nominees as directors and in favor of the amendment to the 2007 Incentive Plan and the ratification of the selection of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP as the Company's independent registered public accounting firm for fiscal year 2009.

Any proxy given pursuant to this solicitation may be revoked by the person giving it at any time before its use by delivering to the Company a written notice of revocation or a duly executed proxy bearing a later date. Any shareholder who has executed a proxy but is present at the Meeting, and who wishes to vote in person, may do so by revoking his or her proxy as described in the preceding sentence. Shares represented by valid proxies in the form enclosed, received in time for use at the Meeting and not revoked at or prior to the Meeting, will be voted at the Meeting. The presence, in person or by proxy, of the holders of a majority of the outstanding shares of the Company's common stock is necessary to constitute a quorum at the Meeting. Votes of shareholders of record who are present at the Meeting in person or by proxy, abstentions, and broker non-votes (as defined below) are counted as present or represented at the Meeting for purposes of determining whether a quorum exists.

If you hold your shares of common stock through a broker, bank or other representative, generally the broker or your representative may only vote the common stock that it holds for you in accordance with your instructions. However, if it has not timely received your instructions, the broker or your representative may vote on certain matters for which it has discretionary voting authority. If a broker or your representative cannot vote on a particular matter because it does not have discretionary voting authority, this is a "broker non-vote" on that matter. Broker non-votes are not counted for the purpose of electing directors, approving the proposal to amend the 2007 Incentive Plan or approving the ratification of the independent registered public accounting firm.

The close of business on March 19, 2009 has been fixed as the record date for determining the shareholders entitled to notice of and to vote at the Meeting. As of the close of business on March 19, 2009, the Company had 66,859,575 shares of common stock outstanding and entitled to vote. Holders

of common stock at the close of business on the record date are entitled to one vote per share on all matters to be voted on by shareholders.

The cost of soliciting proxies, including expenses in connection with preparing and mailing this Proxy Statement, will be borne by the Company. In addition, the Company will reimburse brokerage firms and other persons representing beneficial owners of common stock of the Company for their expenses in forwarding proxy material to such beneficial owners. Solicitation of proxies by mail may be supplemented by telephone, facsimile and personal solicitation by the directors, officers or employees of the Company. No additional compensation will be paid for such solicitation. The Company has retained Georgeson Inc. to assist in the solicitations of proxies at a cost of approximately \$7,500 plus reimbursement of expenses.

Votes Required

Nominees for election as directors at the Meeting will be elected by a plurality of the votes of the shares present in person or represented by proxy at the Meeting. Withholding authority to vote for a nominee for director will have no effect on the outcome of the vote. The affirmative vote of the holders of a majority of the shares of common stock voting on the matter is required to approve the amendment to the Company's 2007 Incentive Plan and to ratify the appointment of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP as the Company's independent registered public accounting firm for the fiscal year ending December 26, 2009.

Shares which abstain from voting as to a particular matter and broker non-votes will not be voted in favor of such matter, and broker non-votes will also not be counted as shares voting on such matter (however, abstentions will be counted as shares voting on a matter). Accordingly, broker non-votes will generally have no effect on the voting on any matter that requires the affirmative vote of a plurality or a majority of the shares voting on the matter, and abstentions will have no effect on a matter that requires the affirmative vote of a plurality voting on the matter but will have the same effect as an "against" vote on any matter that requires the affirmative vote of a majority of the shares voting on the matter. In addition, under New York Stock Exchange rules, the approval of the amendment to the Company's 2007 Incentive Plan also requires that the total votes cast represent a majority of the total outstanding shares entitled to vote.

PROPOSAL ONE ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

Under the Company's By-laws, the number of members of the Company's Board of Directors is fixed from time to time by the Board of Directors but may be increased or decreased either by the shareholders or by the majority of directors then in office. Directors serve in office until the next annual meeting of shareholders and until their successors have been elected and qualified or until their earlier death, resignation or removal.

The Board of Directors has voted to nominate Mr. James C. Foster, Dr. Nancy T. Chang, Mr. Stephen D. Chubb, Dr. Deborah T. Kochevar, Mr. George E. Massaro, Dr. George M. Milne, Jr., Mr. C. Richard Reese, Mr. Douglas E. Rogers, Dr. Samuel O. Thier and Mr. William H. Waltrip for election at the Meeting. There are no family relationships between any of the Company's directors or executive officers. Dr. Kochevar, who joined our Board of Directors in 2008, was originally recommended by our Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee for inclusion on the Company's Board.

Unless authority to vote for any of the nominees named above is withheld, the shares represented by the enclosed proxy will be voted FOR the election as directors of such nominees. In the event that any nominee shall become unable or unwilling to serve, the shares represented by the enclosed proxy will be voted for the election of such other person as the Board of Directors may recommend in that nominee's place. The Board of Directors has no reason to believe that any nominee will be unable or unwilling to serve.

The Board unanimously recommends a vote "FOR" the election of each of these nominees for directors.

NOMINEES FOR DIRECTORS

| Name and Age as of the 2009 Annual Meeting | Position, Principal Occupation, Business Experience and Directorships |
|---|---|
| James C. Foster | 58 Joined us in 1976 as General Counsel. Over the past 32 years, Mr. Foster has held various staff and managerial positions. Mr. Foster was named President in 1991, Chief Executive Officer in 1992 and Chairman in 2000. Mr. Foster has been a director since 1989. |
| Nancy T. Chang | 59 Managing Director at OrbiMed Advisors, a healthcare investment firm, since 2007. Previously, Dr. Chang served as President, Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of the Board of Tanox, Inc., until it was sold in 2007. Dr. Chang co-founded Tanox, a public company created to address asthma, allergy, inflammation and diseases affecting the human immune system. From 1986 to 1992, Dr. Chang was an Associate Professor at Baylor College of Medicine in the Division of Molecular Virology. Between 1981 and 1986, Dr. Chang was employed by Centocor, Inc., serving as the Director of Research, Molecular Biology Group, from 1984 to 1986. Dr. Chang serves on the Boards of Directors of the Federal Reserve Bank in Houston and BioHouston, and the Board of Visitors of the University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center. Dr. Chang has been a director since 2007. |
| Stephen D. Chubb | 65 Former Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Matritech, Inc., a leading developer of proteomics-based diagnostic products for the early detection of cancer, from its inception in 1987 until December 2007. He is also a certified public accountant. Previously, Mr. Chubb served as President and Chief Executive Officer of T Cell Sciences, Inc. and as President and Chief Executive Officer of Cytogen Corp. Mr. Chubb serves as Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Mount Auburn Hospital in Cambridge, Massachusetts and a director of Caregroup Healthcare System, Allegro Diagnostics Corp. and Immunetics, Inc. Mr. Chubb has been a director since 1994. |

| Name and Age as of the 2009 Annual Meeting | Position, Principal Occupation, Business Experience and Directorships |
|---|--|
| Deborah T. Kochevar | <p>52 Dean of the Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine at Tufts University since 2006. Previously, Dr. Kochevar was a long-time faculty member and administrator at the College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, Texas A&M University where she held the Wiley Chair of Veterinary Medical Education. Dr. Kochevar is a past-president of the American College of Veterinary Clinical Pharmacology and is active in the American Veterinary Medical Association, having chaired its Council on Education and the Educational Commission for Foreign Veterinary Graduates. Dr. Kochevar has been a director since October 2008.</p> |
| George E. Massaro | <p>61 Director and Vice Chairman of Huron Consulting Group, Inc., a management consulting company, since June 2004 (Vice Chairman since March 2005). Previously, Mr. Massaro had been Chief Operating Officer of Huron Consulting Group, Inc. and Huron Consulting Services LLC from June 2003 until March 2005, and served as a Managing Director of Huron Consulting Services LLC from August 2002 to May 2003. Prior to joining Huron, he was the Managing Partner of Arthur Andersen's New England practice from 1998 to 2002. Mr. Massaro has more than 35 years of accounting and auditing experience with expertise in a broad range of areas. Mr. Massaro also serves as a director of Eastern Bank Corporation, an independent mutual bank holding company in New England. Mr. Massaro is a certified public accountant and has been a director since 2003.</p> |
| George M. Milne, Jr. | <p>65 Retired from Pfizer Inc. in 2002 after working at the company in research and management positions for nearly 32 years, including Executive Vice President of Global Research and Development and President of Central Research, with global responsibility for Human and Veterinary Medicine R&D. Dr. Milne serves as a director of Mettler-Toledo International, Inc. and Athersys, Inc., and he also serves on the boards of several private companies. He is a venture partner of Radius Ventures LLC. Dr. Milne has been a director since 2002.</p> |

| Name and Age as of the 2009 Annual Meeting | Position, Principal Occupation, Business Experience and Directorships |
|---|---|
| C. Richard Reese | 63 Executive Chairman since 2008 of Iron Mountain Incorporated, a global public information protection and storage company. Prior to that, Mr. Reese was Chairman and the Chief Executive Officer of Iron Mountain since 1981 (Chairman from 1995-2008). Mr. Reese has been a director since 2007. |
| Douglas E. Rogers | 54 Partner and founding member of Blackstone Healthcare Partners LLC, the healthcare partnership with The Blackstone Group, a public global alternative asset management and provider of financial advisory services, since April 2003. Mr. Rogers has extensive experience in health care private equity investing and investment banking, including as Managing Director of Donaldson Lufkin & Jenrette's Merchant Banking Group and Managing Director of Credit Suisse First Boston's Private Equity Group. Previously, Mr. Rogers was a Vice President at Kidder Peabody & Co., Senior Vice President at Lehman Brothers and head of U.S. Investment Banking at Baring Brothers. Mr. Rogers serves as a director of Gerresheimer Group GmbH, and previously served on our Board from 1999 until 2001. Mr. Rogers has been a director since 2002. |
| Samuel O. Thier | 71 Professor of Medicine, Emeritus and Health Care Policy, Emeritus at Harvard Medical School, Massachusetts General Hospital. In December 2002, Dr. Thier retired from the position of Chief Executive Officer of Partners HealthCare System, Inc., which he had held since July 1996. Previously, he served as President of Partners HealthCare System, Inc. from 1994 to 1996, Chief Executive Officer of MGH Corporation from 1994 to 1997, President of Massachusetts General Hospital from 1994 through 1996, and as President of Brandeis University from 1991 to 1994. He has served as President of the Institute of Medicine, National Academy of Sciences, and is a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. Dr. Thier was previously a director of the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston and a trustee of The Commonwealth Fund. Dr. Thier is a director of Merck & Co., Inc., a director of the Foundation for the National Institutes of Health, a member of the Boards of Overseers of TIAA-CREF, Cornell University Weill Medical College and the Heller School for Social Policy and Management at Brandeis University. Dr. Thier has been a director since 2000. |

| Name and Age as of the 2009 Annual Meeting | Position, Principal Occupation, Business Experience and Directorships |
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| William H. Waltrip | 71 Retired Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Bausch & Lomb, Incorporated. Mr. Waltrip was Chairman of the Board of Directors of Technology Solutions Company from 1993 to 2003. Previously, Mr. Waltrip served as Chief Executive Officer of Technology Solutions Company, as Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Biggers Brothers, Inc., and as President and Chief Operating Officer of IU International Corporation. He was also previously President, Chief Executive Officer and a director of Purolator Courier Corporation and was formerly a director of Bausch & Lomb. He is a director of Thomas & Betts Corporation and Theravance, Inc. Mr. Waltrip has been a director since 1996. |
|--------------------|---|

Corporate Governance

We are committed to operating our business with integrity and accountability. We strive to meet or exceed all of the corporate governance standards established by the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE), the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), and the federal government as implemented by the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002. Each of our Board members, other than Mr. Foster who is also Chief Executive Officer and President of the Company, are independent and have no significant financial, business or personal ties to the Company or management and all of our required Board committees are composed of independent directors. Our Board adheres to our Corporate Governance Guidelines and our Code of Business Conduct and Ethics, which have been communicated to employees and posted on our website. We are diligent in complying with established accounting principles and are committed to providing financial information that is transparent, timely and accurate. We have a Related Person Transactions Policy in order to promote the timely identification of transactions with related persons (as defined by the SEC) and to ensure we give appropriate consideration to any real or perceived conflicts in our commercial arrangements. We have established global processes through which employees, either directly or anonymously, can notify management (and the Audit Committee of the Board of Directors) of alleged accounting and auditing concerns or violations including fraud. Our internal Disclosure Committee meets regularly and operates pursuant to formal disclosure procedures and guidelines to help ensure that our public disclosures, including our periodic reports filed with the SEC, earnings releases and other written information that we disclose to the investment community, are accurate and timely. We will continue to monitor developments in the law and stock exchange regulations and will adopt new procedures consistent with new legislation or regulations. Copies of our Corporate Governance Guidelines, Code of Business Conduct and Ethics and our Related Person Transactions Policy are available on our website at www.criver.com under the "Investor Relations Corporate Governance" caption.

Contacting the Board of Directors

In order to provide shareholders and other interested parties with a direct and open line of communication to the Board of Directors, the Company has adopted the following procedures for communications to directors. Shareholders and other interested parties may contact the Lead Independent Director of the Board of Directors, William H. Waltrip, by writing to Mr. Waltrip, c/o Corporate Secretary, Charles River Laboratories International, Inc., 251 Ballardvale Street, Wilmington, MA 01887, or by email at CRLLeadDirector@crl.com. All communications received in this manner will be kept confidential and forwarded by the Corporate Secretary directly to the Lead Independent Director.

Director Qualification Standards; Director Independence

Pursuant to the NYSE listing standards, our Board has adopted a formal set of Director Qualification Standards (Standards) with respect to the determination of director independence. The Standards specify the criteria by which the independence of our directors will be determined, including strict guidelines for directors and their immediate families with respect to past employment or affiliation with the Company or its independent registered public accounting firm. In accordance with these Standards, it must be determined that the director has no material financial relationship with the Company other than as a director. The Standards also prohibit Audit Committee members from any direct or indirect relationship with the Company, and restrict commercial relationships of all directors with the Company. Directors may not be given personal loans or extensions of credit by the Company, and all directors are required to deal at arm's length with the Company and its subsidiaries and to disclose any circumstance that might be perceived as a conflict of interest. The Board has determined that eight of the nine directors standing for re-election to the Board are independent under these Standards. The Board has determined that Mr. Foster does not qualify as an independent director due to his employment as Chief Executive Officer and President of the Company. As a result, Mr. Foster is not a voting member of any committee of the Board, except the Executive Committee.

In the course of the Board's determining the independence of each director other than Mr. Foster, it considered any transactions, relationships and arrangements as required by the Standards. In particular, with respect to each of the most recent three completed fiscal years, the Board evaluated for:

each of our non-employee directors, the annual amount of sales to and/or purchases from the organization where he or she serves as an executive officer; and

Dr. Kochevar, the annual amount of sales (net of any charitable contributions made by the Company) to and/or purchases from the academic institution where she serves as dean of the School of Veterinary Medicine.

In all such evaluations, it was determined that the applicable amounts were below the greater of \$1 million or two percent (2%) of the consolidated gross annual revenues of each of those organizations.

In addition, with respect to all of the Company's non-employee directors, the Board considered the amount of the Company's discretionary charitable contributions to organizations where he or she serves as an officer, director or trustee, and determined that the Company's contributions constituted less than the greater of \$1 million or two percent (2%) of such organization's total annual gross revenues during the organization's last three completed fiscal years.

In conducting this analysis, the Board considered all relevant facts and circumstances, utilizing information derived from the Company's books and records and responses to questionnaires completed by the directors in connection with the preparation of this Proxy Statement. For information about the entities our non-employee directors serve or have served as either (1) an executive officer or (2) an officer, director or trustee of a charitable institution, you are directed to see their biographies adjacent to their pictures above in this Proxy Statement.

The independent members of the Board of Directors typically meet in executive sessions following each regularly scheduled meeting of the full Board of Directors. Mr. Waltrip, the Lead Independent Director, has been chosen by the Board to preside at the executive sessions of the non-management directors. Mr. Foster does not attend such executive sessions of the Board. The full text of our Director Qualification Standards is available on our website at www.criver.com under the "Investor Relations Corporate Governance" caption, within our Corporate Governance Guidelines.

The Board of Directors and its Committees

Meeting Attendance

All Board members are expected to attend our Annual Meetings of Shareholders, unless an emergency prevents them from doing so. All of the then-current members of the Board attended the 2008 Annual Meeting of Shareholders. During 2008, there were five meetings of the Board of Directors. Each director attended 75% or more of the aggregate number of Board meetings and the committee meetings of the Board on which he or she served during 2008 (for purposes of Dr. Kochevar, we make this determination only from the time of her election to the Board).

Audit Committee and Financial Experts

The Audit Committee met five times in 2008. During 2008, the members of the Audit Committee included Messrs. Chubb, Massaro, and Waltrip. The Board of Directors has unanimously determined that Messrs. Chubb and Massaro qualify as "audit committee financial experts" under Item 401(h) of Regulation S-K promulgated under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and the NYSE regulations. In addition, the Board of Directors has determined that each of the members of the Audit Committee is "independent" under the rules of the NYSE and the SEC. The Audit Committee is responsible for the engagement of our independent registered public accounting firm, reviewing the plans and results of the audit engagement with our independent registered public accounting firm, approving services performed by and the independence of our independent registered public accounting firm, considering the range of audit and non-audit fees, consulting with our independent registered public accounting firm regarding the adequacy of our internal controls and reviewing annual and quarterly financial statements. The Audit Committee is also responsible for administering our Related Persons Transaction Policy. A copy of the Audit Committee Charter is available on our website at www.criver.com under the "Investor Relations Corporate Governance" caption.

Compensation Committee

The Compensation Committee met four times during 2008 and was comprised of the following members: Dr. Chang and Dr. Milne, and Messrs. Rogers and Waltrip. The Board of Directors has determined that each of the members of the Compensation Committee is "independent" under the rules of the NYSE and the SEC. The primary objective of the Compensation Committee is to develop and implement compensation policies and plans that are appropriate for the Company in light of all relevant circumstances and which provide incentives that further the Company's long-term strategic plan and are consistent with the culture of the Company and the overall goal of enhancing shareholder value. The Compensation Committee reviews compensation structure, policies, and programs to ensure (1) that legal and fiduciary responsibilities of the Board of Directors are carried out and (2) that such structure, policies and programs contribute to the success of the Company. In addition, the Compensation Committee reviews, approves and makes recommendations on the Company's compensation and benefit plans to ensure that they meet corporate objectives. The Compensation Committee determines and approves the compensation of the CEO and reviews the CEO's recommendations on compensation for all of the Company's executive officers, and approves such compensation when determined. As discussed below under "Compensation Discussion and Analysis Other Factors Underlying the Ongoing Implementation of the Compensation Program Role of Executive Officers in Setting Compensation Parameters," other than Messrs. Foster and Johst, no executive officers of the Company play a significant, ongoing role in assisting the Compensation Committee in setting executive compensation (or, with respect to the Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee, director compensation). The Compensation Committee also administers the Company's equity incentive plans. A copy of the Compensation Committee Charter is available on our website at www.criver.com under the "Investor Relations Corporate Governance" caption.

Compensation Consultant Disclosure

The Compensation Committee engaged Pearl Meyer & Partners (our outside consultants) as outside compensation consultants to advise the Compensation Committee on all matters related to the Company's senior executives' total cash compensation and long-term incentive compensation. The Company's Human Resources Department assisted in coordinating the selection process that resulted in their engagement, which was conducted through an open "request for proposal." Accordingly, Mr. David Johst, as the executive officer responsible for our human resources department, as well as Mr. Foster, each provided input during the process. In 2008, the outside consultants assisted the Compensation Committee with the following:

review and validation of the Company's peer competitor group;

review of the Company's competitive market data for its executives and observations on program design, including pay philosophy, pay levels, and incentive pay mix;

determination of metrics for annual long-term incentive (LTI) awards for all management levels; and

preparation of annual tally sheets for use in evaluating total executive pay packages.

In 2009, the Compensation Committee has also retained the outside consultants to advise it on the amendment to our 2007 Incentive Plan described below in the section of this proxy statement entitled "Proposal Two Approval of Amendment to 2007 Incentive Plan." In addition, from time to time as requested, the outside consultants provide advice to the Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee with respect to reviewing and structuring our policy regarding fees paid to and other equity compensation awarded to non-employee directors. Except as described above, the Company does not receive any other services from the outside consultants, nor has the Company utilized the services of any other compensation consultant in matters affecting senior executive or director compensation.

Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee

The Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee met three times during 2008. The members of the committee included Dr. Thier, Messrs. Chubb, Reese and Waltrip, and Dr. Kochevar (following her election to our Board in October 2008). The Board of Directors has determined that each of the members of the Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee are "independent" under the rules of the NYSE and the SEC. The Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee makes recommendations to the Board on all matters relating to the Board, including development and implementation of policies on composition, participation and size of the Board, changes in the organization and procedures of the Board, and compensation (including equity compensation) of non-employee directors. The Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee oversees matters of corporate governance, including Board performance and director education, and considers and selects director nominees, including those submitted by shareholders in accordance with the by-laws for recommendation to the Board. The Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee also recommends directors for appointment to committees of the Board. The Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee oversees the Company's Corporate Governance Guidelines and Code of Business Conduct and Ethics. A copy of the Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee Charter is available on our website at www.criver.com under the "Investor Relations Corporate Governance" caption.

The Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee uses a variety of methods to identify and evaluate nominees for director. The Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee regularly assesses the appropriate size of the Board and whether any vacancies on the Board are expected due to retirement or otherwise. In the event that vacancies are anticipated, or otherwise arise, the Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee considers various potential candidates for director. Candidates

may come to the attention of the Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee through current Board members, professional search firms, shareholders or other persons. All candidates complete a nominee questionnaire that solicits information regarding the nominee's background, board experience, industry experience, independence, financial expertise, and other relevant information and are interviewed by the Chairman of the Board and at least one member of the Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee. These candidates are discussed at regular or special meetings of the Committee, and may be considered at any point during the year. As described below, the Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee considers properly submitted shareholder nominations for candidates for the Board. If any materials are provided by a shareholder in connection with the nomination of a director candidate, such materials are forwarded to the Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee. The Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee also reviews materials provided by professional search firms or other parties in connection with a nominee who is not proposed by a shareholder. The Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee evaluates the candidates based on the minimum qualifications described below as well as the criteria set forth in the Company's Corporate Governance Guidelines. In evaluating such nominations, the Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee seeks to recommend to shareholders a group that can best perpetuate the success of the Company and represent shareholder interests through the exercise of sound judgment using its diversity of experience in various areas.

Board Nomination Process

The Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee has adopted guidelines regarding the qualifications required for Board nominees. These guidelines are designed to assure that the Board of Directors is composed of successful individuals who demonstrate integrity, reliability, knowledge of corporate affairs, and an ability to work well together. Diversity in business background, area of expertise, gender and ethnicity are also considered. The criteria for director nominees include: the candidate's professional experience and personal accomplishments; the candidate's independence from the Company and management; the ability of the candidate to attend Board and committee meetings regularly and devote an appropriate amount of effort in preparation for those meetings; the candidate's ability to function as a member of a diverse group; and an understanding of the Board's governance role.

The Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee will consider director candidates recommended by shareholders. Shareholders may submit director recommendations to the Corporate Secretary, Charles River Laboratories International, Inc., 251 Ballardvale Street, Wilmington, MA 01887. Recommendations for consideration of nominees at the annual meeting of shareholders must be received not less than 120 days before the first anniversary of the date of the Company's Proxy Statement released to shareholders in conjunction with the previous year's meeting.

PROPOSAL TWO APPROVAL OF AMENDMENT TO THE 2007 INCENTIVE PLAN

The Board of Directors believes that the continued growth of the Company depends, in large part, upon its ability to attract, motivate and retain key employees and directors, and that stock incentive awards are an important means doing so. However, even after having recently made a significant reduction of targeted stock compensation levels relative to our traditional equity compensation practices, our current pool is not likely to be sufficient to satisfy our equity compensation needs as anticipated by the original 2007 Incentive Plan (the Plan).

On February 13, 2009, the Board of Directors adopted an amendment to the Plan, subject to shareholder approval, to increase the number of shares of Common Stock available for issuance under the Plan from 6,300,000 to 8,800,000 to ensure that the Company may continue to attract and retain key employees who are expected to contribute to the Company's success. Our Plan utilizes a fungible pool concept (described in more detail below) where each share issued in connection with awards such as restricted stock and unrestricted stock that do not have option-like features (full-value awards) are counted as 2.3 units, and each share issued that is subject to options, stock appreciation rights and other awards that have option-like features and that expire seven years from the date of grant are counted as 1 unit. Accordingly, the Company and our shareholders previously approved the Plan authorizing a maximum of 6,300,000 shares or a minimum of 2,739,130 shares for issuance to eligible participants. As of December 27, 2008, only a maximum of 4,399,402 shares (and a minimum of 1,912,783 shares) remained available for grant under the 2007 Incentive Plan, and as of March 10, 2009 these share amounts were 1,296,518 (maximum) and 563,703 (minimum), respectively. The proposed increase in the number of shares authorized under the Plan is expected to enable the Company to grant stock-based awards through 2010.

Taking into account the additional 2,500,000 shares the Board has approved to be added to the Plan, depending on the forms of awards granted under the Plan, a maximum of 8,800,000 stock options or stock appreciation rights or a minimum of 3,826,086 full-value awards could be granted under the Plan. Accordingly, taking into account awards currently outstanding under our preexisting plans (as of March 10, 2009) and shares to be granted under the Plan (including the additional 2,500,000 shares), a range of approximately 8,085,436 to 10,231,294 shares may be issuable in the aggregate under all of the Company's stock plans (comprised of awards currently outstanding and shares available for future grant, but excluding the 1,042,659 unvested shares of restricted stock that are currently outstanding). No further awards are permitted to be granted under any preexisting stock option and incentive plans of the Company other than the Plan. The closing price of the Company's common stock on the NYSE on March 19, 2009 was \$27.51.

The Compensation Committee's independent compensation consultant advised it on the Plan amendment. In addition to an overall evaluation of the Company's compensation practices relative to market indicators and peer group companies, the independent compensation consultant has advised the Compensation Committee that the proposed increase in the number of shares authorized under the Plan is consistent with competitive dilution statistics. The Company will continue to monitor the comparative advantages and accounting treatment of equity compensation awards going forward, in order to ensure that the Plan continues to promote retention and create incentives in a manner which benefits our shareholders.

The affirmative vote of a majority of the votes present or represented and entitled to vote at the Meeting is required to approve the proposed Plan amendment. This means that, assuming a quorum is present, the number of votes cast in favor of the proposal must exceed the number of votes cast against it. In addition, under New York Stock Exchange rules, the approval of the proposed Plan amendment requires that the total vote cast represent a majority of the total outstanding shares entitled to vote. If the amendment to the Plan is not approved by shareholders, the Company will not be able to make the proposed additional 2,500,000 shares available for issuance under the Plan.

The Board of Directors believes that the amendment to the Plan will help the Company achieve its goals by keeping its incentive compensation program dynamic and competitive with that of other companies.

The Board of Directors believes that the amended Plan, authorizing the issuance of an additional 2,500,000 shares of common stock, is in the best interest of the Company and its shareholders and recommends a vote "FOR" the approval of the Plan.

Summary of the Plan

The following is a brief summary of the material terms of the Plan, as proposed. This summary is qualified in its entirety by reference to the Plan, a copy of which is attached as *Appendix A* to the electronic version of this Proxy Statement as filed with the SEC and may be accessed from the SEC's website (www.sec.gov). In addition, a hard copy may be obtained by making a written request to the Corporate Secretary of the Company.

General

The Company's Board of Directors and the shareholders approved the Plan in 2007. At that time, a total of 6,300,000 shares of Common Stock were reserved for issuance under the Plan. The Plan may be amended by the Board of Directors or the Compensation Committee, provided that any amendment which requires shareholder approval in order to ensure continued qualification under the NYSE rules, favorable federal income tax treatment for any incentive stock options under Section 422 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the Code), and for awards to be eligible for the performance-based exception under Code Section 162(m), is subject to obtaining such shareholder approval. The Board of Directors has voted to approve an amendment to the Plan to increase by 2,500,000 the aggregate number of shares of Common Stock that may be delivered in satisfaction of awards under the Plan. As of the end of fiscal 2008, the market value of the total number of additional shares to be reserved for issuance under the Plan pursuant to the proposed amendment was \$62,550,000. The Plan is being submitted for shareholder approval at the Meeting to ensure qualification of the Plan under the NYSE rules and Sections 422 and 162(m) of the Code.

Eligibility to Receive Awards

All employees, non-employee directors and individuals providing services to the Company or its affiliates (approximately 8,700 people as of March 1, 2009) are potentially eligible to participate in the Plan. Eligibility for incentive stock options is limited to those individuals whose employment status would qualify them for the tax treatment of Sections 421 and 422 of the Code. Participants are not required to provide consideration to the Company or its affiliates for the grant or extension of awards under the Plan, other than to provide services to the Company or its affiliates.

New Plan Benefits

The granting of awards under the Plan is discretionary, and the Company cannot now determine the number or type of awards to be granted in the future to any particular group or person. The following table reflects the number of awards which were granted under the Plan during fiscal year 2008 to the individuals and groups of individuals described therein:

2007 Incentive Plan (amended)

| Name and Position | Number of Stock Options | Number of Shares of Restricted Stock | Number of Performance Awards(1) |
|---|--------------------------------|---|--|
| James C. Foster Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer | 79,900 | 28,100 | 10,175 |
| Thomas F. Ackerman Corporate Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer | 26,100 | 9,150 | 6,177 |
| Real H. Renaud Corporate Executive Vice President and President, Global Research Models and Services | 29,500 | 10,350 | 1,775 |
| David P. Johst Corporate Executive Vice President, Human Resources, General Counsel & Chief Administrative Officer | 26,100 | 9,150 | 1,775 |
| Nancy A. Gillett Corporate Executive Vice President and President, Global Preclinical Services | 27,800 | 9,750 | 1,775 |
| All current executive officers as a group | 196,300 | 68,900 | 22,177 |
| All current non-employee directors as a group | 65,000 | 22,000 | 0 |
| Company employees other than current executive officers, as a group | 558,900 | 229,825 | 6,865 |

(1)

The amounts in this column reflect the actual payout in February 2009 based upon the achievement of the 12 month performance-based criteria. Initial awards in February 2008 were granted with the expectation that actual payouts were to be within a range of 0%-125% of these amounts. For additional discussion regarding performance awards, please see the section of this proxy statement below entitled "Description of Awards".

Administration of the Plan

The Compensation Committee administers the Plan. Subject to the provisions of the Plan, the Compensation Committee determines the persons to whom awards will be granted, the number of shares to be covered by each stock award and the terms and conditions upon which each of the awards may be granted including vesting periods and transferability.

Available Shares

Subject to adjustment upon certain corporate transactions or events, as proposed, up to a maximum of 8,800,000 shares of common stock (the Fungible Pool Limit) may be subject to stock options, restricted stock, stock appreciation rights, unrestricted stock, deferred stock and other equity-based awards under the Plan. Each share issued or to be issued in connection with awards such as restricted stock and unrestricted stock that do not have option-like features (full-value awards) shall be counted against the Fungible Pool Limit as 2.3 units. Each share issued or to be issued that is subject to options, stock appreciation rights and other awards that have option-like features and that expire seven years from the date of grant shall be counted against the Fungible Pool Limit as 1 unit. Awards not denominated in shares shall not count against the Fungible Pool Limit.

Shares that are forfeited or cancelled shall not be considered to have been delivered under the Plan, but shares retained by the Company in satisfaction of the exercise price or tax withholding requirements of an award will be considered to have been delivered under the Plan. The Compensation

Committee will administer the appropriate methodology for calculating the number of shares of common stock issued pursuant to the Plan in accordance with the foregoing.

Description of Awards

The Plan provides for a number of awards including stock options, stock appreciation rights, restricted stock, unrestricted stock, deferred stock, cash performance awards and grants of cash made in connection with other awards in order to help defray in whole or in part the economic cost (including tax cost) of the award to the participant. In addition, the Plan provides that certain awards may be designated as performance awards if they are related to a performance period determined at the time of grant.

Stock Options

Stock options under the Plan may be either (1) options intended to qualify as "incentive stock options" under Section 422 of the Code, or (2) non-qualified stock options. Incentive stock options may be granted under the Plan to employees of the Company and its affiliates. Non-qualified stock options may be granted to employees of the Company and its affiliates, consultants and directors.

In accordance with federal tax laws, the aggregate fair market value (determined at the time of grant) of shares issuable pursuant to incentive stock options which first become exercisable in any calendar year under any incentive stock option of the Company may not exceed \$100,000 calculated individually for each option holder. Options granted under the Plan may not be granted at a price less than the fair market value of the common stock on the date of grant, or 110% of fair market value in the case of incentive stock options granted to an employee holding 10% or more of the voting stock of the Company. The Compensation Committee determines the exercise price of each stock option provided that each option must have an exercise price that is not less than the fair market value of the common stock on the date of grant.

Stock Appreciation Rights (SARs)

SARs are rights entitling the holder upon exercise to receive cash or stock, as the Compensation Committee determines, equal to a function (determined by such factors as the Compensation Committee deems appropriate) of the amount by which the stock has appreciated in value since the date of the award. The Compensation Committee determines the exercise price of each SAR provided that each SAR must have an exercise price that is not less than the fair market value of the common stock on the date of grant.

Restricted Stock

Restricted stock is an award of stock subject to restrictions requiring that such stock be redelivered to the Company if specified conditions are not satisfied.

Unrestricted Stock

Unrestricted stock is an award of stock not subject to any restrictions under the Plan.

Deferred Stock

Deferred stock is a promise to deliver stock or other securities in the future on specified terms described in each deferred stock agreement.

Cash Performance Awards

A cash performance award is a performance award payable in cash.

Performance Awards

A performance award refers to an award granted to employees where receipt of an underlying final award is dependent upon satisfaction of specified performance criteria. At the beginning of each performance period, targeted performance levels will be established at which a target performance award may be earned, with a threshold or minimum performance level below which no award will be paid, and a maximum beyond which no additional amounts will be paid. The percentage of each performance award that will become a final award will be determined by the Compensation Committee on the basis of the performance goals established and the performance achieved. A final award may be less than or greater than 100% of the performance award. Final awards may relate to, and upon vesting be paid in the form of, restricted stock, unrestricted stock, deferred stock, cash performance awards or cash (or any combination). Payment of final awards will be contingent upon the participant continuing to render services to the Company at such time (unless this condition is waived by the Compensation Committee).

Vesting and Exercisability

The Compensation Committee determines the time or times at which awards under the Plan will vest or become exercisable and the terms on which an award will remain exercisable. However, as discussed below, there are certain minimum vesting periods for issuances of full-value awards.

Repricings

Options and SARs may not be repriced, or replaced or repurchased for cash, without shareholder approval.

Transferability of Awards

No award granted under the Plan is transferable by the holder except by will or by the laws of descent and distribution.

Certain Share Limits on Awards under the Plan

Full-Value Award Limitations

All full-value awards that are not performance-based shall vest over a period of time at least three years or more from the date of grant and all performance-based full-value awards shall be subject to the attainment of performance objectives which require at least 12 months to achieve. However, full-value awards aggregating not more than 5% of the number of shares reserved for issuance under the Plan, as well as full-value awards to outside directors, may be awarded without regard to such vesting requirements.

Individual Award Limitations

The maximum number of shares of stock for which stock options may be granted to any person annually from and after adoption of the Plan and prior to March 22, 2017, the maximum number of shares of stock subject to SARs granted to any person annually during such period and the aggregate maximum number of shares of stock subject to other awards that may be delivered (or the value of which may be paid) to any person annually during such period, shall each be 2,000,000. For purposes of the preceding sentence, the repricing of a stock option or SARs will be treated as a new grant to the extent required under Section 162(m), assuming that the repricing is permitted by shareholders. Subject to these limitations, each person eligible to participate in the Plan will be eligible to receive awards covering up to the full number of shares of stock then available for awards under the Plan. No awards

may be granted under the Plan after March 22, 2017, but previously granted awards may extend beyond that date.

In addition, no more than \$3,000,000 may be paid to any individual with respect to any cash performance award (other than an award expressed in terms of shares of stock or units representing stock). In applying the dollar limitation of the preceding sentence, multiple cash performance awards to the same individual that are determined by reference to performance periods of one year or less ending with or within the same fiscal year of the Company shall be subject in the aggregate to the \$3,000,000 limit. Multiple cash performance awards to the same individual that are determined by reference to one or more multi-year performance periods ending in the same fiscal year of the Company are not included in the limit described above; instead, they are subject in the aggregate to a separate \$3,000,000 limit.

Reclassification of Stock

Under the Plan, if the shares of common stock shall be subdivided or combined into a greater or smaller number of shares or if the Company shall issue any shares of common stock as a stock dividend on its outstanding common stock, the Compensation Committee will make appropriate adjustments to the maximum number of shares that may be delivered under the Plan and to the maximum share limits described above, and will also make appropriate adjustments to the number and kind of shares of stock or securities subject to awards then outstanding or subsequently granted, including any exercise prices relating to the awards and any other provision of awards affected by such change.

Certain Transactions

If the Company undergoes any of (1) a consolidation or merger in which the Company is not the surviving corporation or which results in any individual, entity or "group" acquiring the beneficial ownership directly or indirectly of more than 50% of either the then outstanding shares of common stock of the Company or the combined voting power of the then outstanding voting securities of the Company entitled to vote generally in the election of directors, (2) a sale or transfer of all or substantially all the Company's assets, or (3) a dissolution or liquidation of the Company (each a Covered Transaction), all outstanding awards under the Plan shall vest and, if relevant, become exercisable, all performance criteria and other conditions to any award shall be deemed satisfied, and all deferrals measured by reference to or payable in shares of stock shall be accelerated. Upon consummation of a Covered Transaction, all awards then outstanding and requiring exercise or delivery shall terminate unless assumed by an acquiring or surviving entity or its affiliate as provided below. In the event of a Covered Transaction, the Compensation Committee may provide for substitute or replacement awards from, or the assumption of awards by, the acquiring or surviving entity or its affiliates on such terms as the Compensation Committee determines.

Federal Income Tax Considerations

The following is a description of certain U.S. federal income tax consequences of the issuance and exercise of awards under the Plan under U.S. federal income tax laws as currently in effect:

Incentive Stock Options

An optionee is generally not taxed on the grant or exercise of an incentive stock option. The difference between the exercise price and the fair market value of the shares on the exercise date will, however, be considered an adjustment for purposes of the alternative minimum tax. If an optionee holds the shares acquired upon the exercise of an incentive stock option for at least two years following grant and at least one year following exercise, the optionee's gain (or loss), if any, upon a subsequent disposition of such shares is a capital gain (or loss). The measure of the gain is the difference between

the proceeds received on disposition and the optionee's basis in the shares (which generally equals the exercise price). If an optionee disposes of stock acquired pursuant to exercise of an incentive stock option before satisfying the one and two-year holding periods described above, the optionee will recognize both ordinary income and capital gain (or loss) in the year of disposition. The amount of the ordinary income will be the lesser of (1) the amount realized on disposition less the optionee's adjusted basis in the stock (usually the exercise price) or (2) the difference between the fair market value of the stock on the exercise date and the exercise price. The balance of the consideration received on such a disposition will be short-term capital gain or long-term capital gain depending on the holding period of the share. The Company is not entitled to an income tax deduction on the grant or exercise of an incentive stock option or on the optionee's disposition of the shares after satisfying the required holding periods described above. If the holding periods are not satisfied, the Company will be entitled to a deduction in the year the optionee disposes of the shares, in an amount equal to the ordinary income recognized by the optionee.

Non-Qualified Stock Options

The grant of a non-qualified option will not result in taxable income to the optionee or deduction to the Company at the time of grant. The optionee will recognize taxable compensation, and the Company will have a corresponding deduction, at the time of exercise in the amount of the excess of the then fair market value of the shares acquired over the exercise price, and the optionee will be required to satisfy the tax withholding requirements applicable to such income. Upon disposition of the shares, the optionee will generally realize capital gain or loss, and the optionee's basis for determining gain or loss will be the sum of the exercise price paid for the shares plus the amount of compensation income recognized on exercise of the option.

Stock Appreciation Rights

The amount of any cash or the fair market value of any stock received by a participant upon the exercise of SARs under the Plan will be subject to ordinary income tax in the year of receipt, and the Company will be entitled to a deduction for such amount.

Restricted Stock

A participant who receives restricted stock will recognize no income on the grant of the restricted stock and the Company will not qualify for any deduction, unless the election described below is made by the participant. At the time the restricted stock is no longer subject to a substantial risk of forfeiture, a participant will recognize ordinary compensation income in an amount equal to the excess, if any, of the fair market value of the restricted stock at the time the restriction lapses over the consideration paid for the restricted stock, if any. The holding period that determines whether the participant has long-term or short-term capital gain or loss begins when the restriction period expires, and the tax basis for the shares will generally be the fair market value of the shares on such date.

A participant may elect, under Section 83(b) of the Code, within 30 days of his or her receipt of the restricted stock, to recognize ordinary compensation income on the date of transfer in an amount equal to the excess, if any, of the fair market value on the date of such transfer of the shares of restricted stock, determined without regard to certain restrictions, over the consideration paid for the restricted stock, if any. If a participant makes such election and thereafter forfeits the shares, no ordinary loss deduction will be allowed. Such forfeiture will be treated as a sale or exchange upon which there is realized loss equal to the excess, if any, of the consideration paid for the shares over the amount realized on such forfeiture. Such loss will be a capital loss if the shares are capital assets. If a participant makes an election under Section 83(b), the holding period will commence on the day after the date of receipt and the tax basis will equal the fair market value of shares, determined without regard to the restrictions, on the date of transfer. On a disposition of the shares, a participant will

recognize gain or loss equal to the difference between the amount realized and the tax basis for the shares.

Whether or not the participant makes an election under Section 83(b), the Company generally will qualify for a deduction, subject to the reasonableness of compensation limitation, equal to the amount that is taxable as ordinary income to the participant, in its taxable year in which such income is included in the participant's gross income. The income recognized by the participant will be subject to applicable withholding tax requirements.

Dividends paid on restricted stock that is subject to a substantial risk of forfeiture generally will be treated as compensation that is taxable as ordinary compensation income to the participant and will be deductible by the Company subject to the reasonableness limitation. If, however, the participant makes a Section 83(b) election, the dividends will be treated as dividends and taxable as ordinary income to the participant, but will not be deductible by the Company.

Unrestricted Stock

Upon receiving an award of unrestricted stock under the Plan, the participant will realize ordinary income to the extent of the fair market value (determined at the time of transfer to the employee) of such shares, over the amount, if any, paid by the employee for the shares. Such taxable amounts will be deductible as compensation by the Company.

Deferred Stock

A participant who receives an award of deferred stock will recognize no income on the grant of such award. However, he or she will recognize ordinary compensation income on the transfer of the deferred stock. If at the time of transfer the stock received is subject to a substantial risk of forfeiture, the tax treatment will be the same as discussed above under the caption " Restricted Stock." In such event, a participant may make a Section 83(b) election described above at the time of transfer.

Cash Performance Awards

Generally, a participant will recognize ordinary income and the Company will be entitled to a deduction (and will be required to withhold federal income taxes) with respect to such cash awards at the earliest time at which the participant has an unrestricted right to receive the amount of such cash payment.

Code Section 162(m) provides that the deduction by a publicly held corporation for compensation paid in a taxable year to the chief executive officer and the three other most highly compensated executive officers of the corporation is limited to \$1 million per each individual officer. For purposes of Section 162(m), compensation which meets the requirements of "qualified performance-based compensation" is not subject to the deductibility limitation. The Company believes that awards under the Plan may be able to meet such requirements. However, there can be no assurance that such compensation under the Plan will be fully deductible under all circumstances.

This general tax discussion is intended for the information of shareholders considering how to vote with respect to this proposal and not as tax guidance to participants in the Plan. Different tax rules may apply to specific participants and transactions under the Plan, particularly in jurisdictions outside the United States.

Equity Compensation Plan Information

The following table summarizes, as of December 27, 2008, the number of options issued under the Company's stock option plans and the number of options available for future issuance under these plans.

| Plan Category | Number of securities to be issued upon exercise of outstanding options, warrants and rights (a) | Weighted-average exercise price of outstanding options, warrants and rights (b) | Number of securities remaining available for future issuance under equity compensation plans (excluding securities reflected in column (a)) (c) |
|---|---|--|---|
| Equity compensation plan approved by security holders: | | | |
| Charles River 2000 Incentive Plan | 3,459,396 | \$ 41.28 | 174,618 |
| Charles River 1999 Management Incentive Plan | 30,754 | \$ 14.52 | 15,617 |
| Inveresk 2002 Stock Option Plan | 136,305 | \$ 28.00 | |
| 2007 Incentive Plan | 915,765(1) | \$ 58.25 | 4,399,402 |
| Equity compensation plans not approved by security holders | | | |
| Total | 4,542,220(2) | \$ 43.34 | 4,589,637(3) |

- (1) Includes shares payable under our performance awards granted in fiscal year 2008 under our 2007 Incentive Plan, utilizing 100% target award level of 61,100 shares; actual awards granted in February 2009 differ from this number. The weighted-average exercise prices in column (b) do not take these performance awards into account.
- (2) None of the options outstanding under any equity compensation plan of the Company include rights to any dividend equivalents (i.e., a right to receive from the Company a payment commensurate to dividend payments received by holders of common stock or other equity instruments of the Company).
- (3) On March 22, 2007, the Board of Directors determined that, upon approval of the 2007 Incentive Plan, no future awards would be granted under the preexisting equity compensation plans, including the Charles River 1999 Management Incentive Plan and the Charles River 2000 Incentive Plan. Shareholder approval was obtained on May 8, 2007. Previously, on February 28, 2005, the Board of Directors terminated the Inveresk 2002 Stock Option Plan to the extent that no further awards would be granted thereunder.

In February and early March 2009 the Company issued its annual equity compensation awards to its employees. Accordingly, the following table summarizes, as of March 10, 2009, the updated number

of options issued under the Company's stock option plans and the updated number of options available for future issuance under these plans.

| Plan Category | Number of securities to be issued upon exercise of outstanding options, warrants and rights (a) | Weighted-average exercise price of outstanding options, warrants and rights (b) | Number of securities remaining available for future issuance under equity compensation plans (excluding securities reflected in column (a)) (c) |
|---|---|--|---|
| Equity compensation plan approved by security holders: | | | |
| Charles River 2000 Incentive Plan | 3,374,320 | \$ 41.25 | 272,425 |
| Charles River 1999 Management Incentive Plan | 30,754 | \$ 14.52 | 15,617 |
| Inveresk 2002 Stock Option Plan | 135,882 | \$ 28.05 | |
| 2007 Incentive Plan | 2,893,820 | \$ 34.47 | 1,296,518 |
| Equity compensation plans not approved by security holders | | | |
| Total | 6,434,776(1) | \$ 37.80 | 1,584,560(2) |

(1) None of the options outstanding under any equity compensation plan of the Company include rights to any dividend equivalents (i.e., a right to receive from the Company a payment commensurate to dividend payments received by holders of common stock or other equity instruments of the Company).

(2) On March 22, 2007, the Board of Directors determined that, upon approval of the 2007 Incentive Plan, no future awards would be granted under the preexisting equity compensation plans, including the Charles River 1999 Management Incentive Plan and the Charles River 2000 Incentive Plan. Shareholder approval was obtained on May 8, 2007. Previously, on February 28, 2005, the Board of Directors terminated the Inveresk 2002 Stock Option Plan to the extent that no further awards would be granted thereunder.

The following table provides additional information regarding the aggregate issuances under the Company's existing equity compensation plans as of March 10, 2009.

| Category | Number of securities outstanding (a) | Weighted-average exercise price (b) | Weighted average term (c) |
|--|---|---|--|
| Total number of restricted shares outstanding(1) | 1,042,659 | \$ | |
| Total number of options outstanding | 6,434,776 | \$ 37.80 | 5.48 |

(1) For purposes of this table, only unvested restricted stock as of March 10, 2009 is included. Also for purposes of this table only, the total includes 91,579 restricted stock units granted to certain employees of the Company outside of the United States.

PROPOSAL THREE
RATIFICATION OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM

The Audit Committee of the Board of Directors has appointed PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, independent registered public accounting firm, to audit the financial statements of the Company for the fiscal year ending December 26, 2009 and the effectiveness of the Company's internal control over financial reporting as of December 26, 2009. PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP was the Company's independent registered public accounting firm for the fiscal year ended December 27, 2008 and audited the Company's financial statements for the fiscal year ended December 27, 2008 and the effectiveness of the Company's internal control over financial reporting as of December 27, 2008. The Audit Committee proposes that the shareholders ratify this appointment for the fiscal year ending December 26, 2009. The Company expects that a representative of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP will be present at the Meeting, with the opportunity to make a statement if he or she so desires, and will be available to respond to appropriate questions.

In the event that ratification of the appointment of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP as the independent registered public accounting firm for the Company is not obtained at the Meeting, the Audit Committee will reconsider its appointment.

The affirmative vote of a majority of the shares present or represented and entitled to vote at the Meeting is required to ratify the appointment of the independent registered public accounting firm.

Statement of Fees Paid to Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

The following table presents fees for professional services rendered by PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP for the audit of the Company's annual financial statements for the years ended December 27, 2008 and December 29, 2007, and fees for other services rendered by PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP during those periods.

| | 2008 | 2007 |
|-----------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Audit fees(1) | \$2,996,907 | \$2,840,318 |
| Audit-related fees(2) | 1,009,232 | 112,759 |
| Tax fees(3) | 538,834 | 256,680 |
| All other fees(4) | 6,000 | 6,000 |
| Total(5) | \$4,550,973 | \$3,215,757 |

-
- (1) Audit fees consisted of work performed in the integrated audit of the Company's annual consolidated financial statements filed on Form 10-K, audit activity directly related to Section 404 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, reviews of the Company's quarterly condensed consolidated financial statements filed on Forms 10-Q, and the audits of statutory financial statements of certain foreign subsidiaries. All such services were approved in advance by the Audit Committee.
- (2) Audit-related fees consisted principally of fees for financial due diligence services for potential acquisitions, consultations regarding information system controls and work performed in the audit of the Company's employee benefit plans. All such services were approved in advance by the Audit Committee.
- (3) Tax fees related to tax compliance, consulting, and tax return preparation. All such services were approved in advance by the Audit Committee.
- (4) All other fees consisted of fees for an accounting research tool. All such services were approved in advance by the Audit Committee.
- (5) None of the non-audit services constitute a prohibited activity for the Company's independent auditor under the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 or related SEC or NYSE regulations.

Policy and Procedures on Engagement and Retention of the Independent Auditor for Audit, Audit-Related and Non-Audit Services

Consistent with SEC policies regarding auditor independence, the Audit Committee has responsibility for appointing, setting compensation and overseeing the work of the Company's independent auditor. In recognition of this responsibility, the Audit Committee has established a policy for pre-approving all audit and permissible non-audit services provided by its independent registered public accounting firm.

Prior to engagement of the independent registered public accounting firm for the next year's audit, management submits to the Audit Committee for approval a summary of services expected to be rendered during that year for all such services. Prior to engagement, the Audit Committee pre-approves a budget for each category of services. The Audit Committee requires the independent registered public accounting firm and management to report actual fees versus the budget, quarterly and by category of service. Additional service engagements that exceed these pre-approved limits must be submitted to the Audit Committee for pre-approval. The Audit Committee of the Board of Directors has considered whether the provision of the services described above under the captions "tax fees" and "all other fees" is compatible with maintaining PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP's independence. The Audit Committee has concluded that these services do not compromise PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP's independence.

The Audit Committee recommends a vote "FOR" the ratification of the appointment of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP as the Company's independent registered public accounting firm for the fiscal year ending December 26, 2009.

BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES

The following table sets forth certain information as of March 1, 2009, with respect to the beneficial ownership of shares of the Company's common stock by (1) each person known to the Company to own beneficially more than 5% of the outstanding shares of common stock, (2) each current director and nominee for director of the Company, (3) each of the executive officers listed in the Summary Compensation Table set forth below under the caption "Compensation of Executive Officers" (the named executives), and (4) the current directors and executive officers of the Company as a group. As of March 1, 2009, there were 66,863,036 shares of common stock outstanding.

| Name of Beneficial Owner | Number of Shares beneficially owned as of March 1, 2009 | Percentage of Shares Outstanding |
|---|--|--|
| 5% Shareholders | | |
| Capital World Investors | 5,555,000(1) | 8.3% |
| FMR Corp. | 5,476,030(2) | 8.1% |
| Goldman Sachs Asset Management | 4,231,068(3) | 6.3% |
| Neuberger Berman Inc. | 4,198,620(4) | 6.3% |
| Wellington Management Company, LLP | 3,613,610(5) | 5.4% |
| Named Executive Officers | | |
| James C. Foster | 1,094,955(6) | 1.6% |
| Thomas F. Ackerman | 244,851(7) | * |
| Real H. Renaud | 208,864(8) | * |
| David P. Johst | 290,385(9) | * |
| Nancy A. Gillett | 76,170(10) | * |
| Outside Directors | | |
| Nancy T. Chang | 34,000(11) | * |
| Stephen D. Chubb | 57,773(12) | * |
| Deborah T. Kochevar | 3,000(13) | * |
| George E. Massaro | 43,463(14) | * |
| George M. Milne, Jr. | 44,000(15) | * |
| C. Richard Reese | 13,500(16) | * |
| Douglas E. Rogers | 13,349(17) | * |
| Samuel O. Thier | 36,400(18) | * |
| William H. Waltrip | 62,773(19) | * |
| All executive officers and directors as a group (15 persons) | 2,298,984(20) | 3.36% |

*
Less than 1%.

(1) The information reported is based on a Schedule 13G filed with the SEC on February 13, 2009, by Capital World Investors, a division of Capital Research and Management Company. Capital World Investors has sole voting power with respect to 4,055,000 of the shares reported and sole dispositive power with respect to all of the shares reported in the table. The address of Capital World Investors is 333 South Hope Street, Los Angeles, CA 90071. Capital World Investors disclaims beneficial ownership of the shares reported in the table.

(2) The information reported is based on a Schedule 13G/A filed with the SEC on January 12, 2009, by FMR LLC, the parent company of Fidelity Management & Research Company (FMR Corp). FMR LLC has sole dispositive power with respect to all of the shares reported and sole voting power with respect to 834,990 shares reported in the table. FMR Corp states that it is the beneficial owner of 4,621,010 shares reported in the table as a result of acting as investment adviser to various investment companies. The address of FMR LLC is 82 Devonshire Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02109.

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- (3) The information reported is based on a Schedule 13G filed with the SEC on February 5, 2008, by Goldman Sachs Asset Management, L.P. and GS Investment Strategies, LLC (together, Goldman Sachs Asset Management). Each of Goldman Sachs Asset Management, L.P. and GS Investment Strategies, LLC is a wholly-owned subsidiary of The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. Goldman Sachs Asset Management has shared voting and shared dispositive power with respect to all of the shares reported in the table. The address of Goldman Sachs Asset Management is 32 Old Slip, New York, NY 10005.
- (4) The information reported is based on a Schedule 13G/A filed with the SEC on February 12, 2009, by Neuberger Berman Inc. Neuberger Berman has shared dispositive power with respect to all of the shares reported in the table, sole voting power with respect to 2,239,803 of the shares reported in the table, and shared voting power with respect to 1,203,000 shares reported in the table. The address of Neuberger Berman is 605 Third Avenue, New York, New York 10158.
- (5) The information reported is based on a Schedule 13G/A filed with the SEC on February 17, 2009, by Wellington Management Company, LLP. Wellington Management has shared voting power with respect to 3,034,710 of the shares reported and shared dispositive power with respect to all of the shares reported in the table. The address of Wellington Management is 75 State Street, Boston, MA 02109.
- (6) Includes 792,932 shares of common stock subject to options held by Mr. Foster that are exercisable within 60 days of March 1, 2009.
- (7) Includes 153,081 shares of common stock subject to options held by Mr. Ackerman that are exercisable within 60 days of March 1, 2009.
- (8) Includes 128,631 shares of common stock subject to options held by Mr. Renaud that are exercisable within 60 days of March 1, 2009.
- (9) Includes 208,778 shares of common stock subject to options held by Mr. Johst that are exercisable within 60 days of March 1, 2009.
- (10) Includes 15,413 shares of common stock subject to options held by Dr. Gillett that are exercisable within 60 days of March 1, 2009.
- (11) Includes 8,500 shares of common stock subject to options held by Dr. Chang that are exercisable within 60 days of March 1, 2009.
- (12) Includes 30,000 shares of common stock subject to options held by Mr. Chubb that are exercisable within 60 days of March 1, 2009.
- (13) Includes 0 shares of common stock subject to options held by Dr. Kochevar that are exercisable within 60 days of March 1, 2009.
- (14) Includes 30,000 shares of common stock subject to options held by Mr. Massaro that are exercisable within 60 days of March 1, 2009.
- (15) Includes 30,000 shares of common stock subject to options held by Dr. Milne that are exercisable within 60 days of March 1, 2009.
- (16) Includes 8,500 shares of common stock subject to options held by Mr. Reese that are exercisable within 60 days of March 1, 2009.
- (17) Includes 6,000 shares of common stock subject to options held by Mr. Rogers that are exercisable within 60 days of March 1, 2009.
- (18) Includes 30,000 shares of common stock subject to options held by Dr. Thier that are exercisable within 60 days of March 1, 2009.
- (19) Includes 30,000 shares of common stock subject to options held by Mr. Waltrip that are exercisable within 60 days of March 1, 2009.

(20)

Includes 1,521,293 shares of common stock subject to options exercisable within 60 days of March 1, 2009. None of the 2,298,984 shares reflected have been pledged as security.

Section 16(a) Beneficial Ownership Reporting Compliance

Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 requires the Company's directors and officers, and persons who own more than 10% of the common stock, to file with the SEC initial reports of beneficial ownership and reports of changes in beneficial ownership of the common stock and other equity securities of the Company. Officers, directors and such beneficial owners are required by SEC regulation to furnish the Company with copies of all Section 16(a) forms they file. To the Company's knowledge, based solely on a review of the copies of such reports furnished to the Company and written representations that no other reports were required, during the fiscal year ended December 27, 2008, all Section 16(a) filing requirements applicable to its officers, directors and such beneficial owners were complied with.

COMPENSATION DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

The following discussion and analysis contains statements regarding future individual and Company performance targets and goals. These targets and goals are disclosed in the limited context of the Company's compensation programs and should not be understood to be statements of management's expectations or estimates of results or other guidance. Charles River specifically cautions investors not to apply these statements to other contexts.

Overview

Our success depends on the continued services of our senior management team, as well as the retention of other members of management and key personnel. Ultimately, loss of the services of these individuals, as well as the failure to recruit additional managerial, scientific and technical talent in a timely manner, could harm our business. With these considerations in mind, the Compensation Committee (referred to in this section of the Proxy Statement as the Committee) has overseen the development, implementation and administration of the Company's Executive Compensation Program (the Compensation Program or Program) described below.

While the description of our Compensation Program is focused on our fiscal 2008 executive compensation, we believe it is useful to recognize significant changes to the Program that the Company and the Compensation Committee have implemented effective with the start of 2009. As part of its evaluation of the Company's Program in the second half of 2008, the Compensation Committee, with the assistance of outside independent compensation consultants, reviewed the competitive market data for our executive pay packages and determined that certain elements should be moderated on a going-forward basis. These changes have been primarily manifested through a reduction in our targeted total long-term equity incentive amounts, and correspondingly a reduction in the targeted total direct compensation range, as described more fully below.

During the second half of 2008, demand for our products and services decelerated, which we attribute primarily to emerging factors, including: business restructuring and reprioritization of pipelines by pharmaceutical and biotechnology clients, which led to significant and accelerating study slippage and delays; lack of funding for biotechnology customers; and tight cost controls at our clients resulting in more measured spending and some pricing pressure. Accordingly, our 2009 expectations reflect softer market demand, particularly for preclinical services. For additional discussion of the factors that we believe are influencing demand from our customers, please see the section entitled "Our Strategy" in our Annual Report on Form 10-K filed with the SEC on February 23, 2009.

We have used this period of market uncertainty to streamline our operations, and have implemented actions to improve our operating efficiency, some of which impact our executive compensation practices. These actions include:

initiating a hiring freeze;

implementing a salary freeze for a substantial percentage of our workforce, including all senior incentive-eligible employees (including all of the named executives listed in the Summary Compensation Table);

continuing tight control of discretionary spending; and

implementing a headcount reduction affecting 3% of our total workforce (predominately in our PCS business segment), including the closure of our Arkansas facility.

The combination of current market conditions and the recent comparative evaluation of our executive pay practices by the Committee has naturally influenced our approach to the 2009 Compensation Program. For instance, in addition to the salary freeze for our named executives, we:

reduced the targeted total Long-Term Equity Incentive awards to the 50th percentile (previously, it was the 75th percentile);

reduced the targeted Total Direct Compensation percentile range to the 50th-55th percentile (previously, the range was 65th-75th percentile);

allowed for no discretionary upward adjustment to our 2008 Annual Cash Incentive Awards paid in February 2009; and

determined that, in 2009, we would not grant any new performance awards as a component of our Long-Term Equity Incentive awards in order to ensure that management's focus in 2009 is appropriately aligned with meeting near-term challenges of the Company.

In addition, the implementation of the salary freeze in 2009 is also viewed by the Committee as a mechanism to better align the targeted cash compensation of our named executives with the targeted 55th-60th percentile for Total Short-Term Cash Compensation.

We believe that these adjustments to our Program in their totality are appropriate in light the current economic and market environments, recent executive compensation trends, and are consistent with the non-compensatory actions that the Company has taken recently. Furthermore, the increased focus on short-term financial and operational objectives properly aligns management's incentives with the interests of our shareholders in meeting the specific challenges for 2009.

Because we still maintain a balanced compensation approach featuring a variety of elements designed to achieve the Company's short and long-term objectives, we do not believe that the Program is structured to promote inappropriate risk-taking by our executives, nor do we believe that a focus on near-term challenges in 2009 will ultimately detract from our ability to progress toward our long-term objectives. Our Program has always been designed to ensure that long-term incentives are a significant element of core compensation (as described below, approximately 78% of our named executives' core compensation in 2008 was tied to performance, with a heavy proportion of that focused on long-term equity compensation). In addition, specific elements of the Program operate to moderate risk-taking behavior. For instance, our annual cash incentive award program has maximum limits of payout that can be attained, and our stock ownership guidelines are designed to encourage our executives to be focused on achieving steady growth over an extended period of time. Furthermore, we believe that in evaluating and approving specific individualized performance goals for our executives, the Compensation Committee is cognizant of and sensitive to the need to properly align management's incentives with the overall strategic objectives of the Company, and by carefully designing and objectively defining these various performance goal targets, the Committee strives to ensure that excessive risk-taking is not rewarded.

Separate from the more recent compensation adjustments, earlier in 2008, the Company decided to freeze benefits available under its U.S. defined benefit plan for all participants (including the named executives); however, we intend to maintain this supplemental compensation element until the pension

plan expires or is terminated. While defined benefit programs have been historically more commonplace, like many other public companies we have gradually shifted towards defined contribution programs, and freezing the existing benefits under the pension plan was viewed as being another incremental step in this direction.

The changes to the Program made during 2008 and in early 2009 reflect our flexibility in responding to changing market conditions, investor sentiment, and executive compensation standards. At the same time we believe it is important to maintain consistency in our compensation philosophy and approach. While the Committee and our management team understand the impact that the current economic conditions and the Company's operating performance have had on our stock price, it is important to us that the elements of the Program continue to incentivize management toward the proper near-term and long-term operating goals, which may or may not be immediately translated into appreciation in Charles River's stock price.

Objectives of the Compensation Program

The Committee, which is composed entirely of independent directors, reviews and monitors the Compensation Program and compensation policies by reference to specific objectives which are established in accordance with its charter (a copy of the Committee's charter is available on our website at www.criver.com under the "Investor Relations Corporate Governance" caption). The Committee recognizes the importance of establishing clear objectives for the Company's Compensation Program and the value of comparatively evaluating current and proposed compensation policies and practices in terms of their relative effectiveness in advancing those objectives. In keeping with the Company's philosophy that the Compensation Program should appropriately align executive compensation with both the short and long-term performance of the Company, the Committee has determined that the Compensation Program should achieve the following objectives:

| Objective | <i>Mechanism for Achievement</i> |
|---|--|
| <i>Attract and Retain Superior Talent</i> | Offer appropriately competitive compensation packages to talented executives, managers, scientists and technical personnel who meet our ongoing organizational needs. Ensure that we continue to have access to, and be seen as an attractive employer for, such talent. |
| <i>Support the Achievement of Desired Levels of Company Performance</i> | Create meaningful incentives for individuals to achieve established and clearly communicated key financial and strategic goals, at each of the Company, business segment, and business unit levels. |
| <i>Align the Interests of Executives with the Long-Term Interests of Shareholders</i> | Require a significant amount of each executive's total compensation package to be dependent on corporate performance and other specific measures that ultimately impact shareholder value. |
| <i>Differentially and Meritoriously Reward Individual Performance</i> | Provide additional remuneration to high-level performers, while limiting overall compensation payable to individuals whose performance is determined to be substandard for the relevant performance period. Ensure that individual compensation is aligned with individual levels of contribution, while simultaneously promoting achievement of broader Company performance objectives. |
| <i>Promote Accountability</i> | Continue our long-standing practice of not entering into employment agreements with our U.S.-based corporate executive officers, including all of our named executives, so that each is considered an "at will" employee, similar to virtually all of our approximately 8,700 employees. Evaluate performance without concern for the constraints that an employment agreement might impose on the Company and, in conjunction with our merit-based compensation elements, hold each executive officer accountable for his or her respective performance and contributions to the Company. |

In furtherance of these objectives, the reward structure underlying the Compensation Program is specifically designed to encourage the following employee behaviors that are expected to (and have

historically proven to) heighten individual and Company performance levels and, ultimately, to enhance shareholder value:

| Desired Behaviors | Compensation Elements |
|---|---|
| <i>Achievement of Short-Term Financial Objectives</i> | Annual Cash Incentive Awards primarily determined through a combination of several financial performance measures and indicators to assess short-term performance |
| <i>Focus on Key Short-Term (non-financial) Deliverables Designed to Enhance Long-Term Strategic Positions</i> | Annual Cash Incentive Awards depending on strategic imperatives, may be based on ability to provide key deliverables identified by their strategic importance, level of complexity, or the intensity of effort required to achieve desired outcomes Performance Awards (within the Long-Term Equity compensation element) contingent on achievement of individualized and highly challenging goals over a 12 month performance-based period which further the Company's strategic long-term objectives |
| <i>Focus on Long-Term Stock Appreciation</i> | Stock Option and Restricted Stock Grants issued with time vesting provisions (currently 4 years) Stock Ownership Guidelines for Officers require executives to maintain specified levels of stock ownership in the Company |
| <i>Promoting Retention</i> | Stock Option and Restricted Stock Grants issued with time vesting provisions Deferred Compensation Program includes Company contributions with a time vesting provision Voluntary termination involves forfeiture of previously granted long-term compensation |
| <i>Balanced Focus on Company, Business Segment and Business Unit Objectives</i> | Annual Cash Incentive Awards and Performance Awards each incorporate differential weighting of incentives to motivate desired behaviors in those areas where they are expected to yield the greatest return for the Company |

Compensation Elements

The Company's Compensation Program for members of senior management (including the Chief Executive Officer and the other four executives who are identified in the Summary Compensation Table below (our named executives)) for fiscal year 2008 (as well as for the current fiscal year) consisted of the following core and supplemental elements:

| Core Elements | Supplemental Elements |
|---------------|-----------------------|
| | |

| | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Base salary | Company contributions to the Deferred |
| Annual cash incentive awards | Compensation Plan |
| Long-term equity incentive awards | Termination and Change of Control |
| Other Benefits and Perquisites | Agreements |
| | Retirement Plans |

The core elements of compensation are typically those which the Committee evaluates on an annual basis, while the supplemental elements are programs or arrangements that the Company has installed for strategic reasons which may potentially provide additional compensation to an executive.

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Annual base salary represents a relatively small (less than 20%) portion of our named executives' core compensation. In fact, on average approximately 78% percent of target annual compensation for our named executives varies based on the Company's performance, reflecting the Committee's focus on ensuring that senior management is appropriately rewarded for actual performance achievements. The following chart shows the 2008 total core compensation mix, based on targeted (not actual) compensation, except that the values of perquisites and other benefits are based on actual amounts.

| Compensation Element | Foster | Ackerman | Renaud | Johst | Gillett | Average |
|--|---------------|-----------------|---------------|--------------|----------------|----------------|
| Long-Term Equity Incentive Awards | 68.2% | 63.0% | 63.3% | 63.4% | 65.6% | 64.7% |
| Annual Cash Incentive Awards | 14.5 | 13.5 | 13.5 | 13.6 | 13.1 | 13.6 |
| Base Salary | 14.5 | 19.2 | 19.3 | 19.4 | 18.7 | 18.2 |
| Other (Benefits and Perquisites) | 2.9 | 4.3 | 3.8 | 3.7 | 2.6 | 3.5 |

Total Compensation Strategy and Peer Group

The Committee attempts to adhere to a methodology that provides total core compensation to our named executives' that is targeted to the market and refers to an applicable peer group of companies which are similar in size, industry and stage of development to the Company (the peer group). The peer group includes companies that primarily provide preclinical products and services to pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies and other companies in the biotechnology industry. We draw upon data for comparable companies from public disclosures for the companies in the peer group and from reputable ongoing compensation surveys of similarly sized companies in both of the industries listed above. Each year the Committee, with the input and guidance from the Committee's outside consultants, Pearl Meyer & Partners, reviews and approves the peer group as well as a Target Total Compensation Strategy which determines the targeted market percentile for each element of compensation, as well as the relative weighting of such elements. For additional discussion regarding the role of the outside consultants in the executive and director compensation process, see the section of this Proxy Statement above entitled "The Board of Directors and its Committees Compensation Committee."

For the fiscal year 2008, the companies in the peer group included the following: Applera Corporation, Cephalon, Inc., Covance Inc., Invitrogen Corporation (n/k/a Life Technologies Corp.), MDS Inc., Millennium Pharmaceuticals, Millipore Corporation, PerkinElmer Inc., Pharmaceutical Product Development, Inc., Sepracor Inc., and Waters Corporation. The peer group is primarily comprised of similarly sized companies operating in the area of life sciences and drug discovery and development. For the fiscal year 2009, the companies in the peer group included the following: Applied Biosystems Inc. (n/k/a Life Technologies Corp.), Beckman Coulter, Inc., Biogen Idec, Inc., Cephalon, Inc., Covance Inc., Genzyme Corporation, Icon Plc, IDEXX Labs, Inc., Invitrogen Corporation, MDS Inc., Millipore Corporation, Parexel International Corporation, PerkinElmer Inc., Pharmaceutical Product Development, Inc., Sepracor Inc. and Waters Corporation. Changes to the peer group were made for the 2009 compensation year based on the following: (1) Millennium Pharmaceuticals was removed because it was acquired by Takeda Pharmaceuticals (a non-U.S. based company), (2) Applera Corporation was replaced with its new parent company, Applied Biosystems Inc., (3) Beckman Coulter was added as a peer based on revenue, market capitalization and industry similarities, and (4) in order to offset the removal of the other companies and to provide a deeper statistical base of peer companies within the life sciences and drug discovery and development industries, and taking into account the presence of companies both in the greater Boston area and

globally who compete directly with the Company for scientific and management talent, the following companies were added to the peer group: Biogen Idec Inc., Genzyme Corporation, Icon Plc, IDEXX Labs, Inc., and Parexel International Corporation.

The Committee endeavored to target the core compensation elements at specified percentiles of our peer group and survey results ranging from the 50th-75th percentiles in 2008 with a variant of +/- 15%. While the determination of the amount of each core element was subject to critical independent evaluation, our overarching objective was to provide total core compensation that fell within these parameters. Accordingly, following a review of comparative market data and other survey inputs provided by the outside consultants, the Committee established the following 2008 Target Total Compensation Strategy for each of the compensation elements shown:

| Compensation Element | 2008 Target Total Compensation Strategy |
|--|--|
| <i>Short-Term Cash Compensation Components</i> | |
| <i>Base Salary</i> | <i>50th percentile</i> |
| <i>Short-Term Incentives</i> | <i>60th percentile</i> |
| Total Short-Term Cash Compensation | |
| | 55 th -60 th percentile |
| Long-Term Equity Incentives | 75 th percentile |
| Total Direct Compensation | |
| | 65 th -70 th percentile |

As shown in the preceding table, the Committee targeted total Short-Term Cash Compensation (i.e., the combined value of base salary and targeted short-term cash incentives) at the 55th to the 60th percentile, and targeted long-term equity incentives at the higher 75th percentile in order to weight Total Direct Compensation more heavily toward long-term equity incentive awards. The Total Direct Compensation percentile range referenced above was established by the Committee and was intended to reflect the Company's comparative historical performance versus peer group companies, based on a number of short-term and long-term financial performance indicators.

For fiscal year 2008, following a review by the Committee of our long-term equity award practices, acting on the advice of the outside consultants, the Compensation Committee determined it was appropriate to determine targets amounts for long-term equity incentive awards (granted in February 2008) using the same award values established for 2007 awards.

In early 2009, following a review of competitive market data for our executive pay packages, the Committee determined that certain elements should be moderated on a going-forward basis. Concurrently, the Committee also decided that, in light of the economic and market conditions and the near-term challenges facing the Company in 2009, it would be more beneficial for the Company for senior management to focus on meeting these near-term challenges, and accordingly it decided that certain compensation elements that related to longer-term incentives should be de-emphasized. Accordingly, targeted total Long-Term Equity Incentives were reduced to the 50th percentile for the 2009 Target Total Compensation Strategy. In addition, following a detailed review of comparative peer group and market data, the Committee decided it would be appropriate to reduce targeted Total Direct Compensation percentile range to the 50th-55th percentile in 2009. The Committee also made the decision not to grant any new performance awards in 2009 in order to better ensure that management's

focus in 2009 will be on meeting near-term challenges. Accordingly, the 2009 Target Total Compensation Strategy percentile targets have been established as set forth below:

| Compensation Element | 2009 Target Total Compensation Strategy |
|--|--|
| <i>Short-Term Cash Compensation Components</i> | |
| <i>Base Salary</i> | <i>50th percentile</i> |
| <i>Short-Term Incentives</i> | <i>60th percentile</i> |