



## **Quest Diagnostics Announces Strategic Partnership with Leading European Central Lab, BARC, to Perform Worldwide Pharmaceutical Clinical Studies**

March 27, 1998

**TETERBORO, N.J., MARCH 27, 1998**-Quest Diagnostics Incorporated (NYSE: DGX) announced today that it has entered into a strategic marketing and technology sharing agreement with Bio Analytical Research Corporation (BARC) of Ghent, Belgium, to jointly support clinical trials of new drugs for pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies. Quest Diagnostics' Clinical Studies Center and BARC provide central laboratory testing, clinical trial and data management services.

Under the agreement, the financial terms of which were not disclosed, Quest Diagnostics' Clinical Studies Center will market both firms' worldwide clinical trials support services to pharmaceutical and biotechnology clients in North America, while BARC will market in Europe, Asia, Africa, and Australia. In addition, the agreement enables both companies to use common technology, from investigator site provisions to laboratory testing to relational databases. By using common technology, both companies will produce comparable, combinable data from clinical trials conducted around the world, which will speed the drug approval process for their pharmaceutical and biotechnology sponsors.

Quest Diagnostics and BARC have already begun working together on several global clinical trials for major pharmaceutical companies. "This partnership positions us to become a major player in the management of multi-site, global clinical trials," said Alfred Bacharach, Ph.D., who heads the Clinical Studies Center for Quest Diagnostics in San Juan Capistrano, California. Located at Nichols Institute, Quest's Center for Diagnostic Innovation, the Clinical Studies Center provides comprehensive support to biotechnology and pharmaceutical companies for new drug trials, from the development of new assays, or tests, through central laboratory testing and reporting, to post-marketing surveillance studies.

Dr. Joseph Jonckheere, Vice President for BARC explains: "This is a strong technological partnership. Together, we will offer the most advanced analytical techniques and information technology essential to management of significant volumes of real-time data generated by large-scale clinical trials in several countries. The new partnership will provide an answer to the increased demand in the pharmaceutical industry for global testing with rapid turnaround time."

BARC has been a leading European central lab since 1985. With a vast array of analytical interests, including advanced molecular biology tests, BARC has gained preferred provider status for many pharmaceutical companies including several top ten pharmaceutical companies.

Quest Diagnostics Incorporated is one of the nation's leading providers of diagnostic testing, information and services with laboratories across the United States. The wide variety of tests performed on human tissue and fluids help doctors and hospitals diagnose, treat and monitor disease. Its Nichols Institute unit conducts research, specializes in esoteric testing using genetic screening and other advanced technologies, supports laboratory testing for clinical studies, and manufactures and distributes diagnostic test kits and instruments. Quest Informatics uses innovative data mining technology to help large insurers and health care providers monitor populations of patients and identify those at risk for certain diseases. Visit our web site at: [www.questdiagnostics.com](http://www.questdiagnostics.com)

The statements in this press release which are not historical facts or information are forward-looking statements. These forward-looking statements involve risks and uncertainties that could cause the outcome to be materially different. Certain of these risks and uncertainties are listed in the Quest Diagnostics Incorporated 1997 Form 10-K.