



Charles River Laboratories Named 'Company of the Year' by The Boston Globe

May 21, 2002 at 7:32 AM EDT

WILMINGTON, Mass., May 21, 2002 (BWHealthWire) -- Charles River Laboratories International, Inc. (NYSE: CRL) announced that it has been named "Company of the Year" by The Boston Globe in its 2002 ranking of the best-performing public companies in Massachusetts. Charles River was rated #1 among the region's top 100 companies in the 14th annual "Globe 100" rankings, published this morning.

The Boston Globe evaluated the performance of the region's top public companies based on 2001 revenue growth, improvement in profit margin, and return on shareholders' equity. The data were compiled and analyzed by Compustat, a product of Standard & Poor's. To be considered for the rankings, companies must be headquartered in Massachusetts and their stock listed on the NYSE, NASDAQ, or AMEX stock exchanges. The companies must have been public for all of 2001 and reported 2001 revenue of at least \$25 million.

Commenting on the Company's top ranking, James C. Foster, Chairman and CEO, said: "We're honored to be recognized by The Boston Globe for our outstanding financial performance and for our leadership position among the region's top companies. Our strong and consistent revenue growth underscores the fundamental strengths of our business and the growing worldwide demand for our products and services that enable efficient drug discovery and development. Our selection as the top-performing company in Massachusetts is a credit to our 4,500 employees and scientific staff worldwide who are dedicated to meeting the critical needs of our customers."

Charles River Laboratories, based in Wilmington, Massachusetts, is a leading provider of critical research tools and integrated support services that enable innovative and efficient drug discovery and development. The Company is the global leader in providing the animal research models required in research and development for new drugs, devices and therapies. The Company also offers a broad and growing portfolio of biomedical products and services that enable customers to reduce cost, increase speed, and enhance productivity and effectiveness in drug discovery and development. Charles River's customer base spans over 50 countries, and includes all of the major pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies, as well as many leading hospitals and academic institutions. The Company operates 76 facilities in 15 countries worldwide.

CONTACT: Charles River Laboratories Christopher DiFrancesco 978.658.6000 ext. 1508 cdifrancesco@criver.com