
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

FORM S-8

REGISTRATION STATEMENT UNDER
THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933

CHARLES RIVER LABORATORIES INTERNATIONAL, INC.

(Exact Name of Registrant as Specified in Its Charter)

DELAWARE

(State or Other Jurisdiction
of Incorporation or Organization)

06-1397316

(I.R.S. Employer
Identification No.)

251 Ballardvale St., Wilmington, MA
(Address of Principal Executive Offices)

01887

(Zip Code)

2000 Incentive Plan
(Full Title of the Plan)

Joanne P. Axford

Corporate Senior Vice President,
General Counsel and
Corporate Secretary

Charles River Laboratories International, Inc.
251 Ballardvale St.
Wilmington, MA 01887

(Name and Address of Agent for Service)

(978) 658-6000

Telephone Number, Including Area Code, of Agent For Service

CALCULATION OF REGISTRATION FEE

Title of Each Class of Securities to be Registered	Amount to be Registered(1)	Proposed Maximum Offering Price Per Share(2)	Proposed Maximum Aggregate Offering Price(2)	Amount of Registration Fee
Common Stock, \$0.01 par value per share	3,600,000 shares	\$46.96	\$169,056,000	\$19,898

- (1) Represents 3,600,000 shares issuable pursuant to the 2000 Incentive Plan, as amended, plus an indeterminate number of additional shares which may be offered and issued to prevent dilution resulting from stock splits, stock dividends or similar transactions.
- (2) Estimated solely for the purpose of computing the registration fee pursuant to Rule 457(h) under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, based on the average of the high (\$47.41) and low (\$46.51) prices of the Registrant's Common Stock, \$0.01 par value per share, reported on the New York Stock Exchange on May 11, 2005.
-
-
-

EXPLANATORY NOTE

On October 11, 2000, we filed a Registration Statement on Form S-8 (File No. 333-47768) (referred to in this document as, the "First Registration Statement") that registered under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the "Securities Act"), an aggregate of 1,189,000 shares of common stock, par value \$0.01 per share (the "Common Stock"), issuable by us under our 2000 Incentive Plan (the "2000 Plan"). On May 21, 2001 we filed a subsequent Registration Statement on Form S-8 (File No. 333-61336) (referred to in this document as, the "Second Registration Statement") that registered an additional 2,600,000 shares of Common Stock issuable by us under the 2000 Plan. On June 3, 2003 we filed a subsequent Registration Statement on Form S-8 (File No. 333-105803) (referred to in this document as, the "Third Registration Statement") that registered an additional 2,500,000 shares of Common Stock issuable by us under the 2000 Plan.

This Registration Statement on Form S-8 has been prepared and filed pursuant to and in accordance with the requirements of General Instruction E to Form S-8 for the purpose of effecting the registration under the Securities Act of an additional 3,600,000 shares of Common Stock issuable upon the exercise of stock options grants, or to be granted, under the 2000 Plan at any time or from time to time after the date hereof under each plan. Pursuant to General Instruction E to Form S-8, we hereby incorporate herein by reference the contents of the First Registration Statement, the Second Registration Statement and the Third Registration Statement.

Part II. Information Required in the Registration Statement

Item 3: Incorporation of Documents by Reference

We also hereby incorporate by reference into this Registration Statement the following documents previously filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "Commission") pursuant to the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the "Exchange Act"):

(a) The Registrant's annual report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 25, 2004;

(b) All reports filed by the Registrant pursuant to Section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Exchange Act since December 24, 2004; and

(c) The description of the Registrant's Common Stock, \$0.01 par value per share, contained in the Registrant's Registration Statement on Form S-1, filed pursuant to Section 12 of the Exchange Act (No. 333-35524), including any amendment or report filed for the purpose of updating such description.

All other documents filed by the Registrant with the Commission pursuant to Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 and 15(d) of the Exchange Act subsequent to the date of this Registration Statement and prior to the filing of a post-effective amendment to this Registration Statement which indicate that all securities offered have been sold or which de-register all securities then remaining unsold, shall be deemed to be incorporated by reference in this Registration Statement and to be a part hereof from the date of filing such documents (such documents, and the documents enumerated above, being hereinafter referred to collectively as the "Incorporated Documents").

Any statement contained in an Incorporated Document shall be deemed to be modified or superseded for purposes of this Registration Statement to the extent that a statement contained herein or in any other subsequently filed Incorporated Document modifies or supersedes such statement. Any such statements so modified or superseded shall not be deemed, except as so modified or superseded, to constitute a part of this Registration Statement.

Item 5. Interest of Named Experts and Counsel

Joanne P. Acford, who has issued the opinion of the Registrant's law department on the legality of the Common Stock of the Registrant offered hereby, is Corporate Senior Vice President, General

Counsel and Corporate Secretary of the Registrant. Ms. Acford owns shares of the Registrant's Common Stock and holds employee stock options to purchase the Registrant's Common Stock.

Item 8. Exhibits.

The following exhibits are filed as part of this Registration Statement:

Exhibit No.	Description of Documents
4.1**	Form of certificate representing shares of common stock, \$0.01 par value per share.
4.2**	Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation of Charles River Laboratories International, Inc.
4.3**	Amended and Restated By-laws of Charles River Laboratories International, Inc.
5.1*	Opinion of Joanne P. Acford, Esq.
23.1*	Consent of Joanne P. Acford, Esq. (included in Exhibit 5.1).
23.2*	Consent of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP.
24.1*	Power of Attorney (included on the signature page of this Registration Statement).
99.1***	Charles River Laboratories International, Inc. 2000 Incentive Plan, as amended.

* Filed herewith

** Previously filed as an exhibit to Amendment No. 2 to the Registrant's Registration Statement on Form S-1 (File No. 333-35524) filed June 23, 2000 and incorporated by reference herein.

*** Previously filed as an exhibit to the Registrant's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q (File No. 333-92383) filed May 15, 2001 and incorporated by reference herein.

/s/ GEORGE M. MILNE

George M. Milne

Director

/s/ DOUGLAS E. ROGERS

Douglas E. Rogers

Director

/s/ SAMUEL O. THIER

Samuel O. Thier

Director

/s/ WILLIAM H. WALTRIP

William H. Waltrip

Director

Exhibit Index

Exhibit No.	Description of Documents
4.1**	Form of certificate representing shares of common stock, \$0.01 par value per share.
4.2**	Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation of Charles River Laboratories International, Inc.
4.3**	Amended and Restated By-laws of Charles River Laboratories International, Inc.
5.1*	Opinion of Joanne P. Acford, Esq.
23.1*	Consent of Joanne P. Acford, Esq. (included in Exhibit 5.1).
23.2*	Consent of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP.
24.1*	Power of Attorney (included on the signature page of this Registration Statement).
99.1***	Charles River Laboratories International, Inc. 2000 Incentive Plan, as amended.

* Filed herewith

** Previously filed as an exhibit to Amendment No. 2 to the Registrant's Registration Statement on Form S-1 (File No. 333-35524) filed June 23, 2000 and incorporated by reference herein.

*** Previously filed as an exhibit to the Registrant's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q (File No. 333-92383) filed May 15, 2001 and incorporated by reference herein.

QuickLinks

[EXPLANATORY NOTE](#)

[Part II. Information Required in the Registration Statement](#)

[Item 3: Incorporation of Documents by Reference](#)

[Item 5. Interest of Named Experts and Counsel](#)

[Item 8. Exhibits.](#)

[SIGNATURES](#)

[POWER OF ATTORNEY AND SIGNATURES](#)

May 12, 2005

Securities and Exchange Commission
450 Fifth Street
Washington, D.C. 20549

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I am Corporate Senior Vice President, General Counsel and Corporate Secretary of Charles River Laboratories International, Inc., a Delaware corporation (the "Company"), and have acted as counsel in connection with the Registration Statement on Form S-8 (the "Registration Statement") being filed by the Company under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, relating to the issuance of an additional 3,600,000 shares of the Company's common stock, par value \$.01 (the "Shares"), in connection with the Charles River Laboratories International, Inc. 2000 Incentive Plan, as amended (the "Plan").

I have examined originals or copies, certified or otherwise identified to my satisfaction, of such corporate documents and records which I have deemed necessary or appropriate for the purposes of the opinion and have conducted such other investigations of fact and law as I have deemed necessary or advisable for purposes of this opinion. I have assumed that the signatures (other than those of officers of the Company) on all documents that I have examined are genuine.

Based upon the foregoing, I am of the opinion that the Shares have been duly authorized and, when issued in accordance with the terms of the Plan, will be legally issued, fully paid and non-assessable.

I hereby consent to the filing of the opinion as an exhibit to the Registration Statement.

Very truly yours,

/s/ Joanne P. Acford

Joanne P. Acford, Esq.
Corporate Senior Vice President,
General Counsel and Corporate
Secretary

QuickLinks

[EXHIBIT 5.1](#)

CONSENT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM

We hereby consent to the incorporation by reference in this Registration Statements on Form S-8 of our report dated March 9, 2005 relating to the financial statements, financial statement schedules, management's assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting and the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting, of Charles River Laboratories International, Inc., which appears in Charles River Laboratories Inc.'s Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 25, 2004.

PriceWaterhouseCoopers LLP

Boston, MA
May 12, 2005

QuickLinks

[Exhibit 23.2](#)

[CONSENT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM](#)