

ABBOTT LABORATORIES  
Form 8-K  
July 10, 2003

[QuickLinks](#) -- Click here to rapidly navigate through this document

---

---

**UNITED STATES  
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

---

**FORM 8-K**

**CURRENT REPORT**

Pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the  
Securities Exchange Act of 1934

**June 20, 2003**

Date of Report (Date of earliest event reported)

**ABBOTT LABORATORIES**

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

---

**Illinois**

(State or other Jurisdiction of  
Incorporation)

**1-2189**

(Commission File Number)

**36-0698440**

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

**100 Abbott Park Road  
Abbott Park, Illinois 60064-6400**

(Address of principal executive offices)(Zip Code)

---

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: **(847) 937-6100**

---

---

---

**Item 5. Other Events and Regulation FD Disclosure**

At a regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Directors (the "Board") of Abbott Laboratories (the "Company") on June 20, 2003, the Board amended and restated the Company's by-laws (the "Amended By-Laws"). A copy of the Amended By-Laws is included as Exhibit 3.1 hereto and is incorporated by reference herein.

The Amended By-Laws were amended to change, among other things, the timeframe during which shareholders may properly nominate directors at, or otherwise bring business before, an annual meeting of shareholders. Under the Amended By-Laws, a shareholder must properly submit to the Company's Secretary, among other things, the name of the proposed director nominee for election at, or a notice of the other business to be brought before, the annual shareholders meeting not less than ninety days and not more than one hundred twenty days prior to the anniversary date of the preceding annual meeting of shareholders; *provided, however*, that in the event that the annual meeting is called for a date that is not within twenty-five days before or after such anniversary date, notice of such nomination or other business by the shareholder in order to be timely must be so delivered and received by the Company's Secretary not later than the close of business on the tenth day following the day on which such notice of the date of the annual meeting was mailed or such public announcement in a press release or in a filing with the

## Edgar Filing: ABBOTT LABORATORIES - Form 8-K

Securities and Exchange Commission of the date of the annual meeting was made, whichever first occurs. For the 2004 annual shareholders meeting, unless the date of the meeting is not within twenty-five days before or after April 25, 2004, such nominations or notice of business must be submitted in writing not earlier than December 27, 2003 or later than January 26, 2004. In addition to the foregoing, for such nominations or business to be properly brought before an annual meeting, shareholders must otherwise comply with the procedures set forth in the Amended By-Laws and applicable law.

### Item 7. Financial Statements and Exhibits

(c) Exhibits.

<u>Exhibit No.</u>	<u>Exhibit</u>
3.1	By-Laws of Abbott Laboratories, as amended and restated, effective as of June 20, 2003.

2

### SIGNATURE

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, hereunto duly authorized.

ABBOTT LABORATORIES

By: /s/ THOMAS C. FREYMAN

Thomas C. Freyman  
Senior Vice President, Finance and Chief Financial  
Officer

Date: July 10, 2003

3

### EXHIBIT INDEX

<u>Exhibit No.</u>	<u>Exhibit</u>
3.1	By-Laws of Abbott Laboratories, as amended and restated, effective as of June 20, 2003.

4

QuickLinks

[Item 5. Other Events and Regulation FD Disclosure](#)

Item 7. Financial Statements and Exhibits

SIGNATURE

EXHIBIT INDEX