Peters Robert E Form 3 January 05, 2005

FORM 3

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

OMB APPROVAL

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INITIAL STATEMENT OF BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, Section 17(a) of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting 2. Date of Event Requiring 3. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol Person * Statement **OUEST DIAGNOSTICS INC [DGX]** Peters Robert E (Month/Day/Year) 01/01/2005 (Last) (First) (Middle) 4. Relationship of Reporting 5. If Amendment, Date Original Person(s) to Issuer Filed(Month/Day/Year) ONE MALCOLM AVENUE (Check all applicable) (Street) 6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line) 10% Owner Director _X_ Form filed by One Reporting _X__ Officer Other Person TETERBORO, NJÂ 07608 (give title below) (specify below) Form filed by More than One Vice Pres., Sales & Marketing Reporting Person (City) (State) (Zip) **Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned** 2. Amount of Securities 4. Nature of Indirect Beneficial 1. Title of Security Beneficially Owned Ownership Ownership (Instr. 4) (Instr. 4) Form: (Instr. 5) Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 5) D Â Common Stock 318 Common Stock 926 (3) I 401(k)/SDCP Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially SEC 1473 (7-02) owned directly or indirectly. Persons who respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a

Table II - Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned (e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)

currently valid OMB control number.

1. Title of Derivative	2. Date Exercisable and	3. Title and Amount of	4.	5.	6. Nature of Indirect
Security	Expiration Date	Securities Underlying	Conversion	Ownership	Beneficial
(Instr. 4)	(Month/Day/Year)	Derivative Security	or Exercise	Form of	Ownership
		(Instr. 4)	Price of	Derivative	(Instr. 5)
			Derivative	Security:	

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	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares	Security	Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 5)	
Stock Options (Right to buy)	07/17/2004(1)	07/17/2012	Common Stock	7,200	\$ 70.015	D	Â
Stock Options (Right to buy)	02/27/2004(2)	02/27/2012	Common Stock	9,200	\$ 71.065	D	Â

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
r	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
Peters Robert E ONE MALCOLM AVENUE TETERBORO, NJ 07608	Â	Â	Vice Pres., Sales & Marketing	Â

Signatures

Sirisha Gummaregula, attorney-in-fact for Robert E.
Peters 01/05/2005

**Signature of Reporting Person Date

Explanation of Responses:

- * If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, see Instruction 5(b)(v).
- ** Intentional misstatements or omissions of facts constitute Federal Criminal Violations. See 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a).
- (1) Two-thirds of the option have vested. The final one-third will vest on July 17, 2005.
- (2) Two-thirds of the option have vested. The final one-third will vest on February 27, 2005

These underlying shares were acquired on a periodic basis by the Quest Diagnostics Incorporated's (the "Company") tax qualified Profit Sharing (401(k)) plan and/or the Company's Supplemental Deferred Compensation Plan. The information was obtained from the plan

(3) Sharing (401(k)) plan and/or the Company's Supplemental Deferred Compensation Plan. The information was obtained from the plan administrator as of a recent date. The number of shares is based on the account balance of the Company stock fund under the plan (which includes some money market instruments) divided by the market price of the Company's stock as of that date.

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, *See* Instruction 6 for procedure. Potential persons who are to respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB number.

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