

# FORM 4

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

OMB APPROVAL	
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## STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person * Korenberg Matthew E			2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol LIGAND PHARMACEUTICALS INC [LGND]			5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable) Director _____ 10% Owner _____ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Officer (give title below) _____ Other (specify below) _____ VP, Finance and CFO		
(Last) (First) (Middle) 3911 SORRENTO VALLEY BOULEVARD, STE 110			3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year) 08/06/2016					
(Street) SAN DIEGO, CA 92121			4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)			6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing (Check Applicable Line) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Form filed by One Reporting Person <input type="checkbox"/> Form filed by More than One Reporting Person		
(City) (State) (Zip)			<b>Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned</b>					

1. Title of Security (Instr. 3)	2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year)	3. Transaction Code (Instr. 8)		4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5)		5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4)	6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)	7. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)	
			Code	V	Amount	(A) or (D)				Price
Common Stock	08/06/2016		F		609 (1)	D	\$ 123.30	9,457	D	
Common Stock	02/15/2017		F		391 (2)	D	\$ 104.28	9,106	D	
Common Stock	02/24/2017		A		3,450 (3)	A	\$ 0	12,556	D	
Common Stock	02/24/2017		F		1,051 (4)	D	\$ 100.38	11,505	D	
Common Stock	02/24/2017		A		3,567	A	\$ 0	15,072	D	

Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly.

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**Table II - Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned (e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)**

1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 3)	2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security	3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	3A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year)	4. Transaction Code (Instr. 8)		5. Number of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5)	6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year)		7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 and 4)		8. Price of Derivative Security (Instr. 5)	9. Number of Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 4)	10. Ownership Form of Derivative Security: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)	11. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)
				Code	V		Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares				
Employee Stock Option (right to buy)	\$ 100.38	02/24/2017		A		15,225	(5)	02/24/2027	Common Stock	15,225	\$ 0	15,225	D	

## Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
Korenberg Matthew E 3911 SORRENTO VALLEY BOULEVARD, STE 110 SAN DIEGO, CA 92121			VP, Finance and CFO	

## Signatures

By: Charles S. Berkman For: Matthew E. Korenberg 02/28/2017  
Signature of Reporting Person Date

## Explanation of Responses:

\* If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, *see* Instruction 4(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) Represents shares withheld to satisfy tax withholding obligations upon the vesting of previously reported restricted stock units that were granted on 08/06/2015.

(2) Represents shares withheld to satisfy tax withholding obligations upon the vesting of previously reported restricted stock units that were granted on 02/11/2016.

Represents the number of shares of common stock issued upon the vesting of performance stock units (PSUs). Each PSU represented a contingent right to receive one share of the Issuer's common stock. The PSUs were originally granted on 02/10/2015 and were eligible to vest based on the Issuer's achievement of certain performance objectives during the two-year performance period ending December 31, 2016. On February 24, 2017, the Compensation Committee of the Board of Directors of the Issuer certified the Issuer's achievement relative to the applicable performance objectives and approved the vesting of the PSUs with respect to these shares.

(4) Represents shares withheld by the Issuer in payment of the tax liability arising in connection with the settlement of the PSUs.

(5) Grant to reporting person of options, exercisable over a 4-year period measured from the date of grant, 12-1/2% after six months, then 1/48th of the Optioned Shares per month thereafter.

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, *see* Instruction 6 for procedure.

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