

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**

Date of Report (Date of earliest event reported): January 23, 2019

LIGAND PHARMACEUTICALS INCORPORATED

(Exact Name of Registrant as Specified in Its Charter)

Delaware
(State or other jurisdiction of
incorporation or organization)

001-33093
(Commission File Number)

77-0160744
(I.R.S. Employer
Identification No.)

3911 Sorrento Valley Boulevard, Suite 110
San Diego, CA
(Address of principal executive offices)

92121
(Zip Code)

(858) 550-7500
(Registrant's Telephone Number, Including Area Code)

N/A
(Former Name or Former Address, if Changed Since Last Report)

Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K filing is intended to simultaneously satisfy the filing obligation of the registrant under any of the following provisions:

- Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)
 - Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12)
 - Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))
 - Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))
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Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is an emerging growth company as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act of 1933 (§230.405 of this chapter) or Rule 12b-2 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (§240.12b-2 of this chapter).

Emerging growth company

If an emerging growth company, indicate by check mark if the registrant has elected not to use the extended transition period for complying with any new or revised financial accounting standards provided pursuant to Section 13(a) of the Exchange Act.

Item 8.01 Other Events.

On January 23, 2019, the Board of Directors of Ligand Pharmaceuticals Incorporated (the “Company”) elected to increase the Company’s existing \$200 million share repurchase program (the “Repurchase Program”), authorizing the Company to repurchase up to a maximum of \$350 million of its outstanding common stock under the Repurchase Program. The Repurchase Program will expire, as originally scheduled, on September 20, 2021. As of January 25, 2019, the Company has acquired 745,811 shares of common stock for a total of \$105.6 million under the Repurchase Program.

The Company expects to acquire shares under the Repurchase Program primarily through open-market transactions and may enter into a Rule 10b5-1 trading plan to facilitate open-market repurchases. The timing and amount of repurchase transactions will be determined by the Company’s management based on its evaluation of market conditions, share price, legal requirements and other factors.

Forward-Looking Statements

This report contains forward-looking statements by the Company that involve risks and uncertainties and reflect the Company’s judgment as of the date of this report. These forward-looking statements include, without limitation, statements regarding the Company’s plans with respect to share repurchases and the timing of the effectiveness of the New Repurchase Program. Actual events or results may differ from the Company’s expectations. For example, the Repurchase Program may be suspended or discontinued at any time. The failure to meet expectations with respect to any of the foregoing matters may reduce the Company’s stock price. Additional information concerning these and other risk factors affecting the Company can be found in the Company’s public periodic filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission available at www.sec.gov. The Company disclaims any intent or obligation to update these forward-looking statements beyond the date of this report. This caution is made under the safe harbor provisions of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995.

SIGNATURES

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

Date: January 28, 2019

LIGAND PHARMACEUTICALS INCORPORATED

By: /s/ Charles Berkman

Name: Charles Berkman

Title: Senior Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary