

FORM 4

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

OMB APPROVAL	
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Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue. See Instruction 1(b).

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 * JOHNSON IRVING S		2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol LIGAND PHARMACEUTICALS INC [LGND]		5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Director <input type="checkbox"/> Officer (give title below) <input type="checkbox"/> 10% Owner <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify below)	
(Last) (First) (Middle) C/O LIGAND PHARMACEUTICALS INC., 10275 SCIENCE CENTER DR.		3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year) 11/20/2003			
(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)		Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned			

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	11/20/2003		M		8,118	A	\$ 5.8125	31,047	D	
Common Stock	11/20/2003		S		8,118	D	\$ 12	22,929	D	
Common Stock	11/20/2003		M		1,527	A	\$ 4.5829	24,456	D	
Common Stock	11/20/2003		S		1,527	D	\$ 12	22,929	D	
Common Stock	11/20/2003		M		1,583	A	\$ 5.6828	24,512	D	
Common Stock	11/20/2003		S		1,583	D	\$ 12	22,929	D	

Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially 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 currently valid OMB control number. SEC 1474 (9-02)

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	(A)	(D)		Date Exercisable	Expiration Date					
Non-Qualified Stock Option (right to buy)	\$ 4.5829	11/20/2003		M			1,527	(1)	01/02/2011	Common Stock	1,527	\$ 12	0	D	
Non-Qualified Stock Option (right to buy)	\$ 5.6828	11/20/2003		M			1,583	(2)	01/02/2012	Common Stock	1,583	\$ 12	0	D	
Non-Qualified Stock Option (right to buy)	\$ 5.8125	11/20/2003		M			8,118		05/17/1996 05/17/2005	Common Stock	8,118	\$ 12	0	D	

Reporting Owners

Relationships

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
JOHNSON IRVING S C/O LIGAND PHARMACEUTICALS INC., 10275 SCIENCE CENTER DR. SAN DIEGO, CA 92121	X			

Signatures

By: Barbara J. Olson For: Irving S. Johnson	11/21/2003
<small>**Signature of Reporting Person</small>	<small>Date</small>

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) The option becomes exercisable in twelve successive equal monthly installments upon completion of each calendar month of service beginning 1/31/01.

(2) The option becomes exercisable in twelve successive equal monthly installments upon completion of each calendar month of service beginning 1/31/02.

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.