

# 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 * <b>HIGGINS JOHN L</b>		2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol <b>LIGAND PHARMACEUTICALS INC [LGND]</b>		5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Director <input type="checkbox"/> 10% Owner <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Officer (give title below) <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify below) <b>Chief Executive Officer</b>	
(Last)	(First)	(Middle)	3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year) <b>08/16/2018</b>		
3911 SORRENTO VALLEY BOULEVARD, STE 110					
(Street)			4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed (Month/Day/Year)		
SAN DIEGO, CA 92121					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	08/16/2018		M		3,007 <a href="#">(1)</a>	A	\$ 14.47	110,426	D	
Common Stock	08/16/2018		S		21,507 <a href="#">(1)</a>	D	\$ 241.3289	88,919	D	
Common Stock	08/17/2018		M		12,993 <a href="#">(1)</a>	A	\$ 14.47	101,912	D	
Common Stock	08/17/2018		S		12,993 <a href="#">(1)</a>	D	\$ 243.00	88,919	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	(A)	(D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date						Title
Non-Qualified Stock Option (right to buy)	\$ 14.47	08/16/2018	08/16/2018	M		3,007 <a href="#">(1)</a>		<a href="#">(2)</a>	02/09/2022	Common Stock	3,007	\$ 0	171,993	D	
Non-Qualified Stock Option (right to buy)	\$ 14.47	08/17/2018	08/17/2018	M		12,993 <a href="#">(1)</a>		<a href="#">(2)</a>	02/09/2022	Common Stock	12,993	\$ 0	159,000	D	

## Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
HIGGINS JOHN L 3911 SORRENTO VALLEY BOULEVARD, STE 110 SAN DIEGO, CA 92121	X		Chief Executive Officer	

## Signatures

By: Charles S. Berkman For: John L. Higgins

08/17/2018

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) The sale reported on this Form 4 was made pursuant to a written trading plan adopted by the Reporting Person on June 22, 2018, in accordance with Rule 10b5-1.

(2) 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 Option Shares per month thereafter. The date of grant is 02/09/12.

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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