

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
or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person * MERTES TOD (Last) (First) (Middle) , (Street) , (City) (State) (Zip)	2. Date of Event Requiring Statement (Month/Day/Year) 05/20/2003	3. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol LIGAND PHARMACEUTICALS INC [lgnd]	
		4. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable) <input type="checkbox"/> Director <input type="checkbox"/> 10% Owner <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Officer (give title below) <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify below) Vice President, Controller	5. 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

Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned

1. Title of Security (Instr. 4)	2. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned (Instr. 4)	3. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 5)	4. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 5)
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Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly.

SEC 1473 (7-02)

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

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

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
MERTES TOD ,			Vice President, Controller	

Signatures

/s/ Tod G. Mertes		05/21/2003
<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 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) 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 4/29/03.

(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 5/17/01.

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.

POWER OF ATTORNEY
SEC FORMS 3, 4 and 5

The undersigned, Tod G. Mertes, hereby appoints and designates each of Warner R. Broaddus, Paul V. Maier and Barbara J. Olson his/her attorney-in-fact, signing singly, to execute and file on the undersigned's behalf all Forms 3, 4, and 5 (including any amendments thereto) that the undersigned may be required to file with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission as a result of the undersigned's ownership of or transactions in securities of Ligand Pharmaceuticals Incorporated. Any previous authority to act on the undersigned's behalf in connection with such execution and filing of Forms 3, 4 and 5 is hereby revoked and the authority of Warner R. Broaddus, Paul V. Maier and Barbara J. Olson under this Statement shall continue until the undersigned is no longer required to file Forms 3, 4 and 5 with regard to the undersigned's ownership of or transactions in securities of Ligand Pharmaceuticals Incorporated, unless earlier revoked in writing. The undersigned acknowledges that neither Warner R. Broaddus, Paul V. Maier nor Barbara J. Olson is assuming any of the undersigned's responsibilities to comply with Section 16 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.

Date: May 20, 2003

/s/ Tod G. Mertes

Tod G. Mertes