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<SROS>NASDAQ
<REPORTING-OWNER>
0001182612

Officer
</REPORTING-OWNER>

<SUBJECT-COMPANY>
Ligand Pharmaceuticals Incorporated
0000886163

<IRS-NUMBER>77-0160744
</SUBJECT-COMPANY>

<PERIOD>03/17/03

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

FORM 4
STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP

[] Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16.
Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue.

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person(s)
Groves, Eric S.
10275 Science Center Drive

San Diego, California 92121

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol
Ligand Pharmaceuticals Incorporated (LGND)

3. I.R.S. Identification Number of Reporting Person, if an entity (Voluntary)

4. Statement for Month/Day/Year
03/17/2003

5. If Amendment, Date of Original (Month/Day/Year)

6. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable)

[] Director [] 10% Owner
[X] Officer (give title below) [] Other (specify below)
Vice President,
Project Management

7. Individual or Joint/Group Filing (Check Applicable Line)

[X] Form filed by One Reporting Person
[] Form filed by More than One Reporting Person

<TABLE>
<CAPTION>

Table I Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned

| 1)Title of Security | 2)Trans- action Date (Month/ Day/Year) | 3.Trans- action Code V | 3.Trans- or Disposed of (D) A or Amount | 4.Securities Acquired(A) Beneficially Owned at D Price | 5)Amount of Indirect D or Ownership End of Month I | 6) 7)Nature of Beneficial Ownership I |
|---------------------|--|---------------------------------|--|---|---|--|
| <S> Common Stock | <C> 03/17/03 | <C> P | <C> 2,000 | <C><C> A \$5.7100 | <C> 3,308 | <C><C> D Direct |

<CAPTION>

Table II (PART 1) Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned (Columns 1 through 6)

| 1)Title of Derivative Security | 2)Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security | 3)Trans- action Date | 3)Trans- action Code V | 4)Trans- action or Disposed of (D) A D | 5)Number of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) D Exercisable | 6)Date Exercisable and Expiration Date Expiration |
|-----------------------------------|---|----------------------------|---------------------------------|--|---|---|
| <S> | <C> | <C> | <C> | <C> | <C> | <C> |

<CAPTION>

Table II (PART 2) Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned (Columns 1,3 and 7 through 11)

| 1)Title of Derivative Security | 3)Trans- action of Underlying | 7)Title and Amount | 8)Price of Deri- Derivative | 9)Number of Derivative Indirect | 10) 11)Nature of |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------|
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------|

| Date | Securities | Amount or Number of Shares | Security Beneficially Owned at End of Month | Security Beneficially Owned at End of Month | D | Beneficial Ownership |
|------|------------|----------------------------|---|---|-----|----------------------|
| - | Title | | | | | |
| <S> | <C> | <C> | <C> | <C> | <C> | <C> |

<FN>

Explanation of Responses:

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The Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) includes 589 shares acquired under the Ligand employee stock purchase plan in 2002.

</FN>

</TABLE>

SIGNATURE OF REPORTING PERSON

/S/ By: Barbara J. Olson

For: Eric S. Groves

DATE 03/17/03