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<SROS>NASDAQ

<REPORTING-OWNER>

0001182613

Officer

</REPORTING-OWNER>

<SUBJECT-COMPANY>

Ligand Pharmaceuticals Incorporated

0000886163

<IRS-NUMBER>77-0160744

</SUBJECT-COMPANY>

<PERIOD>04/29/03

4

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)

L'Italien, James J.

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

04/29/2003

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)

Sr. V-P, Regulatory Affairs

and Compliance

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	4) Securities Acquired(A) or Disposed of (D) A or Amount	5) Amount of Securities D or Ownership End of Month	6) Indirect Beneficial Ownership I	7) Nature of
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<S> <C> <C> <C> <C><C> <C> <C><C>

<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	4) Trans- action Code V A	5) Number of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) D	6) Date Exercisable and Expiration Date Exercisable Expiration
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<S>	<C>	<C>	<C>	<C>	<C>
Incentive Stock Option (right to buy)	\$9.2500	04/29/03	A	25,000	(1) 04/29/13

<CAPTION>

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

1) Title of Derivative	3) Trans-	7) Title and Amount	8) Price	9) Number of	10) 11) Nature of
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Security	action of Underlying	Date	Securities	Amount or Number of Shares	of Derivative Security	Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned at End of Month	D	Indirect Beneficial Ownership
-			Title					
<S>	<C>	<C>		<C>	<C>	<C>	<C>	<C>
Incentive Stock Option (right to buy)		04/29/03	Common Stock		25,000	25,000	D	Direct

<FN>
Explanation of Responses:

(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.

</FN>
</TABLE>
SIGNATURE OF REPORTING PERSON
/S/ By: Barbara J. Olson
For: James J. L'Italien
DATE 05/01/03