

Korenberg Matthew E
 Form 4
 March 06, 2018

FORM 4

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

OMB APPROVAL

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STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, Section 17(a) of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person *
 Korenberg Matthew E

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol
 LIGAND PHARMACEUTICALS
 INC [LGND]

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer
 (Check all applicable)
 ___ Director ___ 10% Owner
X Officer (give title below) ___ Other (specify below)
 EVP, Finance & Strategy and CFO

(Last) (First) (Middle)
 3911 SORRENTO VALLEY
 BOULEVARD, STE 110
 (Street)

3. Date of Earliest Transaction
 (Month/Day/Year)
 03/02/2018

SAN DIEGO, CA 92121
 (City) (State) (Zip)

4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line)
X Form filed by One Reporting Person
 ___ Form filed by More than One Reporting Person

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 Ownership (Instr. 4)
				(A) or (D)	Price		
Common Stock	03/02/2018		A	3,074	A \$ 0	12,761	D
Common Stock	03/06/2018		A	2,004 ⁽¹⁾	A \$ 0	14,765	D
Common Stock	03/06/2018		F	550 ⁽²⁾	D \$ 165.87	14,215	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)	Amount or Number of Shares
Employee Stock Option (right to buy)	\$ 159.01	03/02/2018		A	16,050	⁽³⁾ 03/02/2028	Common Stock	16,050

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
Korenberg Matthew E 3911 SORRENTO VALLEY BOULEVARD, STE 110 SAN DIEGO, CA 92121			EVP, Finance & Strategy and CFO	

Signatures

By: Charles S. Berkman For: Matthew E. Korenberg
Date: 03/06/2018

**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).

- Represents the number of shares of common stock issued upon the vesting of performance stock units (PSUs). Each PSU represented a contingent right to receive one share of the Issuer's common stock. The PSUs were originally granted on 02/11/2016 and were eligible to
- (1) vest based on the Issuer's achievement of certain performance objectives during the two-year performance period ending December 31, 2017. On March 05, 2018, the Compensation Committee of the Board of Directors of the Issuer certified the Issuer's achievement relative to the applicable performance objectives and approved the vesting of the PSUs with respect to these shares.
 - (2) Represents shares withheld to satisfy tax withholding obligations upon the vesting of previously reported restricted stock units that were granted on 02/11/2016.
 - (3) Grant to reporting person of options to purchase shares of common stock ("Option Shares"), 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 03/02/18.

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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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