

PHARMACOPEIA INC
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Ligand and Pharmacoepia to Present at the Oppenheimer 19th Annual Healthcare Conference

Princeton, N.J., Oct. 28, 2008 Ligand Pharmaceuticals Incorporated (NASDAQ: LGND) and Pharmacoepia (NASDAQ: PCOP), an innovator in the discovery and development of novel small molecule therapeutics, today announced that John L. Higgins, President and Chief Executive Officer of Ligand, and Dr. Joseph A. Mollica, Interim President and Chief Executive Officer of Pharmacoepia, will deliver a presentation at the Oppenheimer 19th Annual Healthcare Conference. Recently, Ligand and Pharmacoepia entered into a definitive merger agreement, under which Ligand will acquire Pharmacoepia.

The conference will be held November 3-4, 2008, at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel in New York, New York. Ligand's and Pharmacoepia's presentation will take place at 9:20 a.m. Eastern time on Monday, November 3, 2008. A live webcast and 90-day archive of the presentation can be accessed at Ligand's web site at www.ligand.com and through Pharmacoepia's web site at www.pharmacoepia.com.

Ligand and Pharmacoepia entered into the definitive merger agreement on September 24, 2008. This transaction is expected to close by the fourth quarter of 2008 and is subject to the approval of Pharmacoepia's stockholders and antitrust regulatory clearance, as well as other customary closing conditions.

About Pharmacoepia

Pharmacoepia is a clinical development stage biopharmaceutical company dedicated to discovering and developing novel small molecule therapeutics to address significant medical needs. The company has a broad portfolio of clinical and preclinical candidates under development internally or by partners including nine clinical compounds in Phase 2 or Phase 1 development addressing multiple indications including diabetic nephropathy, muscle wasting and inflammation. The company is leveraging its fully integrated drug discovery platform to sustain the growth of its development pipeline. Pharmacoepia has established strategic alliances with major pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies, including Bristol-Myers Squibb, Celgene, Cephalon, GlaxoSmithKline, Schering-Plough and Wyeth Pharmaceuticals. For more information please visit the company's website at <http://www.pharmacoepia.com>.

About Ligand Pharmaceuticals

Ligand discovers and develops new drugs that address critical unmet medical needs of patients with thrombocytopenia, hepatitis C, hormone-related diseases, osteoporosis, inflammatory diseases and anemia. Ligand's proprietary drug discovery and development programs are based on its leadership position in gene transcription technology.

Forward-Looking Statements

This release contains forward-looking statements that involve risks and uncertainties. Ligand and Pharmacoepia caution readers that any forward-looking information is not a guarantee of future performance and actual results could differ materially from those

contained in the forward-looking information. Words such as expect, estimate, project, potential, and similar expressions are intended to identify such forward-looking statements. Such forward looking statements include, but are not limited to, the expected timing of closing the merger. Among the important factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from those in any forward-looking statements are the risk that Pharmacoepia's stockholders fail to approve the merger; and Ligand or Pharmacoepia does not satisfy the conditions of the merger, or that the merger is otherwise delayed or ultimately not consummated. There can be no assurance that any product in Ligand's, Pharmacoepia's or the projected combined company's product pipeline will be successfully developed or manufactured, that final results of clinical studies will be supportive of regulatory approvals required to market licensed products, or that any of the forward-looking information provided herein will be proven accurate. Additional important factors that may affect future results are detailed in Ligand's and Pharmacoepia's filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "SEC"), including its recent filings on Forms 10-K and 10-Q, or in information disclosed in public conference calls, the date and time of which are released beforehand. Ligand and Pharmacoepia disclaim any intent or obligation to update these forward-looking statements beyond the date of this release.

Additional Information and Where to Find It

On October 20, 2008, Ligand filed with the SEC a Registration Statement on Form S-4, which included a proxy statement of Pharmacoepia and other relevant materials in connection with the proposed transaction. The proxy statement will be mailed to the stockholders of Pharmacoepia. Investors and security holders of Pharmacoepia are urged to read the proxy statement and the other relevant materials when they become available because they will contain important information about Ligand, Pharmacoepia and the proposed transaction. The proxy statement and other relevant materials (when they become available), and any other documents filed by Ligand or Pharmacoepia with the SEC, may be obtained free of charge at the SEC's web site at www.sec.gov. In addition, investors and security holders may obtain free copies of the documents filed with the SEC by Ligand (when they become available) by going to Ligand's Investor Relations website at www.ligand.com. Investors and security holders may obtain free copies of the documents filed with the SEC by Pharmacoepia (when they become available) by going to Pharmacoepia's Investor Relations page on its corporate website at www.pharmacoepia.com. Investors and security holders of Pharmacoepia are urged to read the proxy statement and the other relevant materials when they become available before making any voting or investment decision with respect to the proposed transaction.

Ligand and its respective directors and executive officers may be deemed to be participants in the solicitation of proxies from the stockholders of Pharmacoepia in favor of the proposed transaction. Information concerning Ligand's directors and executive officers is set forth in Ligand's proxy statement for its 2008 annual meeting of shareholders, which was filed with the SEC on April 29, 2008, the annual report on Form 10-K filed with the SEC on March 5, 2008 and the current report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on August 4, 2008.

Pharmacoepia and its respective directors and executive officers may be deemed to be participants in the solicitation of proxies from the stockholders of Pharmacoepia in favor of the proposed transaction. Information about Pharmacoepia's executive officers and directors and their ownership of Pharmacoepia common stock is set forth in the proxy statement for the Pharmacoepia's 2008 annual meeting of shareholders, which was filed with the SEC on March 24, 2008. Investors and security holders may obtain more detailed information regarding the direct and indirect interests of Pharmacoepia and its respective executive officers and directors in the acquisition by reading the proxy statement regarding the merger, which will be filed with the SEC.

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