

HIGGINS JOHN L  
Form 4  
December 29, 2017

**FORM 4** UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20549

OMB APPROVAL

OMB Number: 3235-0287  
Expires: January 31, 2015  
Estimated average burden hours per response... 0.5

Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue. See Instruction 1(b).

**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 \*  
HIGGINS JOHN L

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

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

(Check all applicable)

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

3. Date of Earliest Transaction  
(Month/Day/Year)  
12/28/2017

Director  10% Owner  
 Officer (give title below)  Other (specify below)  
Chief Executive Officer

SAN DIEGO, CA 92121

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

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

(City) (State) (Zip)

**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)
			Code	V	Amount or Price		
Common Stock	12/28/2017		A	(1)	9,965 \$ 0	D	
Common Stock	12/28/2017		F	(2)	5,199 \$ 138.66	D	

Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly.

**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.**

SEC 1474  
(9-02)

**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)	8. Price of Derivative Security (Instr. 5)	9. Number of Derivative Securities Owned Following Transaction (Instr. 6)
				Code	V (A) (D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares

## Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
HIGGINS JOHN L 3911 SORRENTO VALLEY BOULEVARD, STE 110 SAN DIEGO, CA 92121	X		Chief Executive Officer	

## Signatures

By: Charles S. Berkman For: John L. Higgins  
Date: 12/29/2017

\_\_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 02/10/2015 and were eligible to vest based on the Issuer's achievement of certain performance objectives during the three-year performance period ending December 31, 2017. On December 28, 2017, 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 by the Issuer in payment of the tax liability arising in connection with the settlement of the PSUs.

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.