Berkman Charles S Form 4 March 06, 2018

FORM 4

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

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF

SECURITIES

OMB APPROVAL OMB

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obligations

may continue.

See Instruction

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

1(b).

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person * 5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to 2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Berkman Charles S Issuer Symbol LIGAND PHARMACEUTICALS (Check all applicable) INC [LGND] (Last) (First) (Middle) 3. Date of Earliest Transaction Director 10% Owner X_ Officer (give title Other (specify (Month/Day/Year) below) 3911 SORRENTO VALLEY 03/02/2018 SVP, Gen. Counsel & Secretary **BOULEVARD, STE 110** (Street) 4. If Amendment, Date Original 6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Filed(Month/Day/Year) Applicable Line) _X_ Form filed by One Reporting Person Form filed by More than One Reporting SAN DIEGO, CA 92121

(City)	(State)	(Zip) Tabl	e I - Non-E	Derivative	Secur	rities Acqu	ired, Disposed of,	, or Beneficiall	y Owned
1.Title of Security (Instr. 3)	2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year)	3. Transactic Code (Instr. 8)	4. Securi on(A) or Di (Instr. 3,	(A) or	d of (D)	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 Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)
Common Stock	03/02/2018		A	1,780	A	\$0	26,839	D	
Common Stock	03/06/2018		A	1,136 (1)	A	\$0	27,975	D	
Common Stock	03/06/2018		F	392 (2)	D	\$ 165.87	27,583	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. Transacti 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)	
				Code V	(A) (D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares
Employee Stock Option (right to buy)	\$ 159.01	03/02/2018		A	9,292	(3)	03/02/2028	Common Stock	9,292

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Ketauonsinps					
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other		

Berkman Charles S 3911 SORRENTO VALLEY BOULEVARD, STE 110

SVP, Gen. Counsel & Secretary

SAN DIEGO, CA 92121

Signatures

Charles S. 03/06/2018

**Signature of Date
Reporting Person

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 by the Issuer in payment of the tax liability arising in connection with the settlement of the PSUs.

Reporting Owners 2

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(3) Grant to reporting person of options to purchase shares of common stock ("Option Shares"), exerciseable 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.

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.