

LIGAND PHARMACEUTICALS INC
Form 8-K
October 14, 2008

UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, DC 20549

FORM 8-K

CURRENT REPORT

Pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the
Securities Exchange Act of 1934

Date of Report (Date of earliest event reported): October 10, 2008

LIGAND PHARMACEUTICALS INCORPORATED

(Exact Name of Registrant as Specified in Its Charter)

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| Delaware (State or Other Jurisdiction of Incorporation or Organization) | 001-33093 (Commission File Number) | 77-0160744 (I.R.S. Employer Identification No.) |
| 10275 Science Center Drive, San Diego, California, 92121-1117 (Address of Principal Executive Offices) (Zip Code) | | |
| (858) 550-7500 | | |

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(Registrant's Telephone Number, Including Area Code)

N/A

(Former Name or Former Address, if Changed Since Last Report)

Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K filing is intended to simultaneously satisfy the filing obligation of the registrant under any of the following provisions:

- Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)
- Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12)
- Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))
- Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))

Item 8.01. Other Events.

On October 10, 2008, Ligand Pharmaceuticals Incorporated (Ligand) and Pharmacoepia, Inc. (Pharmacoepia) received notice that a putative class action complaint was filed in the Superior Court of New Jersey, Mercer County (Equity Division) by Allen Heilman, one of Pharmacoepia's stockholders, against Pharmacoepia, the members of its Board of Directors, Ligand and two of Ligand's wholly owned subsidiaries. The complaint generally alleges that Pharmacoepia's Board of Directors' decision to enter into the proposed transaction with Ligand on the terms contained in the proposed merger agreement constitutes a breach of fiduciary duty and gives rise to other unspecified state law claims. The complaint also alleges that Ligand and two of its wholly owned subsidiaries aided and abetted Pharmacoepia's Board of Directors' breach of fiduciary duty. In addition, the complaint alleges that the named plaintiff will seek equitable relief, including among other things, an order preliminarily and permanently enjoining the proposed transaction.

Ligand believes that the allegations in the complaint are without merit and intends to vigorously defend against this action.

Additional Information and Where to Find It

Ligand intends to file with the SEC a Registration Statement on Form S-4, which will include 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 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 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, and annual report on Form 10-K filed with the SEC on March 5, 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 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.

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, the registrant has caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned.

LIGAND PHARMACEUTICALS INCORPORATED

Date: October 14, 2008

By: /s/ Charles S. Berkman
Name: Charles S. Berkman
Title: Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary