LIGAND PHARMACEUTICALS INC Form 8-K April 30, 2012

UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 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): April 27, 2012

LIGAND PHARMACEUTICALS INCORPORATED

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware (State or other jurisdiction

001-33093 (Commission 77-0160744 (I.R.S. Employer

of Incorporation) File Number) Identification No.)

11085 North Torrey Pines Road, Suite 100, La Jolla, California 92037

(Address of principal executive offices) (Zip Code)

(858) 550-7500

(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 1.01 Entry into a Material Definitive Agreement.

On April 27, 2012, Ligand Pharmaceuticals Incorporated licensed certain rights to an undisclosed anti-inflammatory research program to Merck KGaA. Ligand will receive an upfront cash payment of \$1.0 million. Additional terms of the agreement are not disclosed.

SIGNATURES

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

LIGAND PHARMACEUTICALS INCORPORATED

Date: April 30, 2012

By: /s/ Charles S. Berkman Name: Charles S. Berkman

Title: Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary