September 30, 2009

Ligand to Present on October 6th at the Fourth Annual JMP Securities Healthcare Focus Conference

SAN DIEGO-- Ligand Pharmaceuticals Incorporated (NASDAQ: LGND) announced today that President and Chief Executive Officer John L. Higgins will be presenting at the Fourth Annual JMP Securities Healthcare Focus Conference on Tuesday, October 6, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. Eastern time at The New York Palace Hotel in New York.

About Ligand Pharmaceuticals

Ligand discovers and develops new drugs that address critical unmet medical needs of patients with muscle wasting, frailty, hormone-related diseases, osteoporosis, inflammatory diseases, anemia, asthma, rheumatoid arthritis and psoriasis. Ligand's proprietary drug discovery and development programs are based on advanced cell-based assays, gene-expression tools, ultra-high throughput screening and one of the world's largest combinatorial chemical libraries. Ligand has strategic alliances with major pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies, including Bristol-Myers Squibb, Celgene, Cephalon, GlaxoSmithKline, Schering-Plough, Pfizer and Wyeth Pharmaceuticals. With nine pharmaceutical agreements and more than 20 molecules in various stages of development, Ligand utilizes proprietary technologies for identifying drugs with novel receptor and enzyme drug targets.

Source: Ligand Pharmaceuticals Incorporated