March 1, 2010

Ligand to Present at the Cowen & Company 30th Annual Healthcare Conference on March 11

SAN DIEGO-- Ligand Pharmaceuticals Incorporated (NASDAQ: LGND) announced today that President and Chief Executive Officer John L. Higgins, and Vice President of Discovery Research Dr. Martin Meglasson will present at the Cowen & Company 30th Annual Healthcare Conference on Thursday, March 11, 2010, at 11:05 a.m. Eastern time (8:05 a.m. Pacific). The conference takes place at the Boston Marriott Copley Place.

A live webcast of the presentation will be available on the Company's website www.ligand.com. A replay of the presentation will be archived on the site for 30 days.

About Ligand Pharmaceuticals

Ligand discovers and develops new drugs that address critical unmet medical needs of patients for a broad spectrum of diseases including hepatitis, muscle wasting, frailty, inflammatory diseases, anemia, asthma, rheumatoid arthritis and osteoporosis. 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 GlaxoSmithKline, Merck, Pfizer, Roche, Celgene, and Cephalon and more than 30 molecules are in various stages of development by its partners.

Source: Ligand Pharmaceuticals Incorporated