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## **Burrill, others win biotech 'Pantheon' awards**

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It's not every day that G. Steven Burrill, the chief executive officer of San Francisco-based [Burrill & Co.](#), gets choked up on stage.

But he did as one of the headline recipients of the 2008 DINA lifetime achievement awards at the 2008 BayBio Pantheon ceremony on Thursday, Burrill has been steeped in the biotechnology industry over the past 40 years. From some of the biggest board room decisions to billion dollar deals, the hottest IPOs and some of the most successful venture capital funding rounds, he's been an early pioneer in the life sciences.

But in accepting the recognition Burrill cited the notes, letters and feedback he's received from people who have been impacted by him during his career on a life-changing level. "That's what I consider success," Burrill said.

Burrill's company is a merchant bank focused on life sciences companies, with over \$950 million under management.

He and others were commended for their work and its impact on the advancement of science and investment not only in Northern California, but around the world. The night, hosted by BayBio, the trade association serving the life science industry in Northern California, is often likened to the Oscars for the biotech industry. Other recipients this year included:

— Lifetime Achievement: Dr. Kary Mullis, the Nobel Prize winner for his work in developing the polymerase chain reaction (PCR), one of the most important scientific techniques of the 20th century because the process allows scientists to amplify DNA. DNA amplification that occurs with PCR has multiple applications within fields of medicine, genetics, biotechnology and forensics.

— Outstanding Company: BioMarin Pharmaceutical Inc. (NASDAQ:BMRN), a Marin County-based company that develops and commercializes biopharmaceuticals for serious diseases and medical conditions.

— Outstanding Product: Nexavar by Onyx Pharmaceuticals Inc. (NASDAQ:ONXX) and Bayer HealthCare Pharmaceuticals Inc. The Nexavar tablets are approved in more than 70 countries worldwide for the treatment for patients with advanced kidney cancer, and in over 60 countries for the treatment of advanced liver cancer.

— Outstanding Partnering Deal: OncoMed Pharmaceuticals Inc. The Redwood City company

— developing therapeutics targeting cancer stem cells — recently closed a ground breaking, pre-clinical financing \$1.4 billion deal with GlaxoSmithKline (NYSE:GSK), shattering the traditional paradigm that big pharma avoids deals with pre-clinical candidates.

— Biotechnology Educators: George Cachianes and Julie Reis, teachers at Abraham Lincoln High School in San Francisco involved the school's award-winning biotechnology program that motivates students to pursue science-related careers.

Rising Star Award: Dr. Michelle Chang, assistant professor in the department of chemistry at University of California, Berkeley, and a faculty scientist at the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory. Her lab work is involved with learning how to build biosynthetic pathways in engineered cells for applications in energy, medicine and materials.

— Outstanding Public Support: Marty Van Duyn, assistant city manager with the city of South San Francisco for his work in creating a partnership with the life science industry and helping companies to grow by providing them with vital services.