"I was also surprised mainly because if you look at the previous 21 years’ awardees for the Young Investigator award, I don’t fit the profile of being a white male researcher. So, I was really surprised to be honest!"

do you know the ratio of award nominations to #applications from each gender/racial group? because this is an issue that comes up a lot, but it seems like people often ignore the fact that the award women/minorities are represented adequately or even over-represented when it comes to how many apply/are in the running for certain awards.

for example, if you look at the sources quoted in this article:

http://time.com/3825533/women-in-science-study/

you see that "Since the 1980s, females have been interviewed and hired at a higher rate than their representation in the STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) applicant pool would predict, as documented by the National Research Council and other investigators. "

i'm not aware of the OHBM demographics dating back to its inception 20-odd years ago, but if i was the one making these types of comments, i'd want to be pretty damn sure the data supports what i'm saying before i start hinting at racism/sexism in the award process.