Jalayne Arias investigates how to reduce the individual and social burden associated with Alzheimer’s disease and other dementias through public policy initiatives. She brings extensive experience evaluating the legal, ethical, and policy consequences of documenting biomarkers in an asymptomatic patient’s medical record. During her GBHI fellowship, she will expand these evaluations to diverse populations affected by Alzheimer’s disease and other dementias, and she will explore potential solutions by analyzing legal and health care systems, including those beyond the United States. Arias has already developed a database of legislation and case law related to health privacy, genetic and disability discrimination, employment law, and insurance discrimination/risk classification from patients with Alzheimer’s disease from all 50 US states and the District of Columbia. The interprofessional mentoring and collaborative environment at GBHI fosters her skills to translate the latest scientific research into social change and complements Arias’ substantive understanding of key policy issues, research methods, and clinical treatment of dementia and cognitive impairment.

"Research can affect social change for people with dementia by considering legal, ethical, and policy ramifications alongside bench and clinical science."
Bio: Jalayne Arias received her undergraduate degree in international studies with a political science emphasis from Pepperdine University, her law degree from Arizona State University, and her master’s degree in bioethics from Case Western Reserve University. After completing a Cleveland Fellowship in Advanced Bioethics at the Cleveland Clinic, she joined the Department of Bioethics as associate professional staff and served as the associate director of the NeuroEthics Program at the Cleveland Clinic. She joined the Global Brain Health Institute as a fellow at the University of California, San Francisco in 2016. The Alzheimer’s Association awarded Arias a Mentored New Investigator Research Grant to Promote Diversity. She is currently an assistant professor at the UCSF Memory and Aging Center.