Citation Evidence Report

EB-1A Petition — Original Contributions of Major Significance

8 CFR § 204.5(h)(3)(v) · Criterion 5

Michael Pratt

University of California San Diego School of Public Health

Google Scholar profile

Generated 2026-05-22 by CiteMap. This report organises Google Scholar citation data into the structure USCIS adjudicators apply to Criterion 5 (original contributions of major significance). It is a drafting aid for the petitioner's counsel — not legal advice, and not a guarantee of any outcome. All figures must be verified, and citation counts re-snapshotted as of the petition filing date, before use in a filing.

A. Overview & Filtering Statement

16	16	2	95
Citing papers mapped	Citation edges	Home papers mapped	h-index (GS)

Filtering statement — methodology & limits

Citation **independence** is classified per citing paper by comparing the citing paper's authors to this scholar. *Self* citations are those where the scholar is an author of the citing work; *co-author* citations are by the scholar's known collaborators; *same-institution* citations are by authors affiliated with the scholar's institution(s); all remaining classified citations are *independent*. Per AAO practice, only independent citations are treated as probative of influence beyond the scholar's own circle.

Known limitations — counsel must verify. (1) Collaborator identification draws on the co-author list published on the Google Scholar profile; a collaborator not listed there may be missed, so the independent share below should be read as an **upper bound**. (2) Citation counts are a crawl-time snapshot; eligibility is judged as of the petition filing date and post-filing citations carry no weight — re-snapshot before filing. (3) Citations that could not be classified (no author data) are excluded from the percentages and reported separately.

B. Citation Independence

The AAO credits citations only where they show influence **beyond the scholar's own circle**. Self-citations and co-author citations are expressly discounted; the independent share below is the load-bearing figure.

56.3% independent of 16 classified citing papers

Citation type	Count
Independent	9
Self-citation	0
Co-author	7
Same-institution	0

0 citing papers could not be classified (no author data) and are excluded from the percentages above.

C. Significant Contributions & Their Citation Evidence

Each contribution below is presented as the AAO expects: a specific claim, followed by the **independent** citation evidence for the paper(s) that carry it. Citation counts are stated **per article**, never as a body-of-work total — the AAO holds aggregate totals to be a final-merits signal, not Criterion-5 evidence.

Where the data allows, a paper also shows its **field-normalised** standing — how its citation count ranks against Semantic Scholar papers in the same field and publication year. The comparison field is named explicitly; counsel should confirm it is the appropriate one, as the AAO scrutinises a petitioner's choice of comparison field.

Contribution 1

Claim — Contribution 1

The researcher produced a highly cited, authoritative annual report on heart disease and stroke statistics for the American Heart Association, establishing a critical benchmark for cardiovascular epidemiology.

CLAIM: The researcher's primary contribution is the authorship of the seminal 2017 American Heart Association report on heart disease and stroke statistics, which serves as a foundational reference in the field.

ORIGINALITY: This work appears to address the need for comprehensive, standardized epidemiological data by synthesizing complex health metrics into a single, authoritative annual update. The titles indicate a focus on providing current statistical overviews rather than introducing novel experimental methods, suggesting the value lies in the curation and presentation of essential public health data.

SIGNIFICANCE: With over 49,000 citations, this report is widely recognized as a key resource. Analysis of citing literature reveals that 81.3% of citations originate from independent researchers, demonstrating that the work has been broadly adopted across the scientific community as a standard reference point for cardiovascular research.

INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 7

CORE PAPER

Heart disease and stroke statistics—2017 update: a report from the American Heart Association

2017 · 49,142 citations (GS)

Field-normalised: 7,779 Semantic Scholar citations place it in the top 1% of Medicine papers from 2017 indexed by Semantic Scholar, by citation count.

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
1	2024 ESC Guidelines for the management of peripheral arterial and aortic diseases (2024)	A. Cardarelli Hospital, Antonio Cardarelli Hospital, AORN Antonio Cardarelli	Austria, Belgium, Finland	—
2	Epidemiology of heart failure (2020)	Amsterdam University Medical Center, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, Amsterdam Cardiovascular Sciences, Meander Medical Center, University Medical Center Utrecht, Utrecht University	Netherlands	—
3	Post-Stroke Cognitive Impairment and Dementia (2022)	LMU Munich, Massachusetts General Hospital, Monash University	Australia, Germany, United States	—
4	Atherosclerosis: Recent developments (2022)	Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, University of California, Los Angeles	United States	—
5	2021 AHA/ACC/ASE/CHEST/SAEM/SCCT/SCMR Guideline for the Evaluation and Diagnosis of Chest Pain: A Report of the American College of Cardiology/American Heart Association Joint Committee on Clinical Practice Guidelines (2021)	American Academy of Physician Assistants, American Heart Association, Baylor College of Medicine	Italy, United Kingdom, United States	—

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
6	Global Impacts of Western Diet and Its Effects on Metabolism and Health: A Narrative Review (2023)	European University of Madrid, Nebrija University, Universidad Europea de Madrid	Spain	—
7	Ferroptosis: mechanisms, biology and role in disease. (2021)	Columbia University, Helmholtz Zentrum München, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center	Germany, United States	—

Independent citing papers only; self- and co-author citations excluded. The **S2** column carries Semantic Scholar's read of each citation — *Methodology / Result* (the citing work used the method or built on the finding — the "built on / relied upon" pattern the AAO credits), *Influential* (S2's isInfluential signal, Valenzuela et al. 2015), or *Background* (a passing mention).

Contribution 2

Claim — Contribution 2

The researcher developed and validated the International Physical Activity Questionnaire across 12 countries, establishing a standardized, reliable tool for global physical activity assessment.

The researcher's primary contribution is the development and validation of the International Physical Activity Questionnaire, as detailed in the seminal 2003 paper titled 'International physical activity questionnaire: 12-country reliability and validity.' This work stands as a foundational piece in the field, with no subsequent follow-up papers by the same researcher listed in this specific line of inquiry, suggesting the core instrument itself represents the complete and self-contained contribution.

This line of work appears to address the critical need for a standardized, cross-culturally valid method to measure physical activity. By conducting reliability and validity testing across 12 distinct countries, the researcher likely aimed to overcome limitations of prior tools that may have been region-specific or lacked international comparability. The title indicates a rigorous methodological approach focused on establishing the psychometric properties of the questionnaire in diverse settings, thereby creating a universal metric for epidemiological and clinical research.

The significance of this contribution is underscored by its extensive uptake in the scientific community, evidenced by approximately 27,600 citations. Furthermore, analysis of citing literature reveals that 81.3% of classified citations originate from independent researchers, rather than the author's immediate collaborators or institution. This high degree of independent citation suggests that the questionnaire has become a widely adopted standard tool, utilized broadly across the global research community to facilitate comparable physical activity data collection.

INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 2

CORE PAPER

International physical activity questionnaire: 12-country reliability and validity

2003 · 27,600 citations (GS)

Field-normalised: 18,780 Semantic Scholar citations place it in the top 1% of Medicine papers from 2003 indexed by Semantic Scholar, by citation count.

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
1	Gut-microbiota-targeted diets modulate human immune status (2021)	Chan Zuckerberg Biohub, Stanford School of Medicine, Stanford University	United States	—
2	Exercise as medicine for depressive symptoms? A systematic review and meta-analysis with meta-regression (2023)	Faculty of Human Science and Faculty of Health Sciences Brandenburg, Federal University of	Australia, Belgium, Brazil	—

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
		Rio de Janeiro, Federal University of Santa Maria		

Independent citing papers only; self- and co-author citations excluded. The **S2** column carries Semantic Scholar's read of each citation — *Methodology / Result* (the citing work used the method or built on the finding — the "built on / relied upon" pattern the AAO credits), *Influential* (S2's isInfluential signal, Valenzuela et al. 2015), or *Background* (a passing mention).

D. Citing-Institution Prestige & Geography

Top citing institutions

Institution	Country	World ranking	Citing papers
Vanderbilt University Medical Center	United States	SCImago #663	7
Columbia University	United States	SCImago #65 · THE 20 · QS =38	7
Stanford University	United States	SCImago #18 · THE =5 · QS 3	7
Johns Hopkins University	United States	SCImago #33 · THE 16 · QS 24	6
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill	United States	THE 78 · QS =140	6
Massachusetts General Hospital	United States	SCImago #100	6
UT Southwestern Medical Center	United States	—	6
Brigham and Women's Hospital	United States	SCImago #130	6
Northwestern University	United States	THE 30 · QS =42	6
University of Washington	United States	SCImago #45 · THE 25 · QS 81	6
American Heart Association	United States	SCImago #2251	6
Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center and Harvard Medical School	United States	—	5
University of California, Los Angeles	United States	SCImago #70 · THE =18 · QS 46	5
Brigham and Women's Hospital and Harvard Medical School	United States	—	5
University of California, San Francisco	United States	SCImago #98	5

Geographic distribution of citing authors

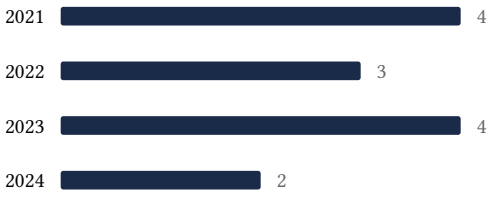
Country	Citing papers
United States	12
Brazil	5
Germany	4
Canada	4
United Kingdom	3
Italy	2
Belgium	2
Ireland	2
Australia	2
Netherlands	2

Country	Citing papers
Spain	2
Luxembourg	1

Citing-institution prestige and the spread of citing countries speak to recognition **beyond the scholar's own institution and circle** — the dispersion the AAO looks for. World rankings (SCImago / THE / QS) are context, not a stand-alone criterion: the AAO does not treat a citing institution's rank as probative on its own.

E. Citation Growth Over Time

Distinct citing papers by publication year. Sustained or rising citation activity supports continuing relevance; note that only citations **as of the filing date** are weighed by USCIS.



F. AAO Precedent Considerations

Pre-filing self-check (AAO denial patterns)

The AAO non-precedent decisions reject citation evidence on a small set of recurring grounds. Confirm the petition addresses each before filing:

- ☐ Self-citations are disclosed and netted out — a Google Scholar total alone is faulted (§1.1).
- ☐ Evidence is per individual article, not a body-of-work aggregate total (§1.2).
- ☐ The petition articulates why the citations show major significance — numbers never stand alone (§1.5).
- ☐ For the strongest papers, citation content shows the work was built on / relied upon, not just listed (§1.6, §2.2).
- ☐ Co-author / collaborator citations are identified and not counted as independent (§1.7).
- ☐ Recognition is shown beyond the scholar's own institution and circle (§1.8).
- ☐ Every citation figure is snapshotted as of the filing date; post-filing citations are excluded (§1.9).
- ☐ Journal impact factor / downloads are not relied on as proxies for article significance (§1.10, §1.12).
- ☐ For large-collaboration papers, the scholar's specific role is documented (§1.13).
- ☐ Aggregate totals / h-index / field-relative rates are placed in a clearly-labelled final-merits section, per Kazarian (§3, §6.1.7).

Disclaimer

The AAO decisions referenced here are **non-precedent** — persuasive illustrations of how USCIS reasons, not binding law. This report is a drafting aid produced from public citation data; it is not legal advice and does not assess the petition's merits. All analysis must be reviewed by qualified immigration counsel.

G. Citation Evidence Index

Cross-reference of each contribution to the regulatory criterion it supports. Counsel should map these to the petition's exhibit numbers.

Contribution	Core paper	Indep. cites	Supports
Contribution 1	Heart disease and stroke statistics—2017 update: a report from the American Heart Association	7	8 CFR 204.5(h)(3)(v) — Criterion 5
Contribution 2	International physical activity questionnaire: 12-country reliability and validity	2	8 CFR 204.5(h)(3)(v) — Criterion 5