

Citation Evidence Report

EB-1A Petition — Original Contributions of Major Significance

8 CFR § 204.5(h)(3)(v) · Criterion 5

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[Google Scholar profile](#)

Generated 2026-05-21 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

3 Citing papers mapped	3 Citation edges	1 Home papers mapped	81 h-index (GS)
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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.

100.0% independent of 3 classified citing papers

Citation type	Count
Independent	3
Self-citation	0
Co-author	0
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 identified serum retinol binding protein 4 as a contributor to insulin resistance in obesity and type 2 diabetes, establishing a novel mechanistic link in metabolic disease.

The researcher's primary contribution centers on the 2005 Nature paper titled 'Serum retinol binding protein 4 contributes to insulin resistance in obesity and type 2 diabetes.' This work appears to establish a specific biological mechanism linking a serum protein to metabolic dysfunction, a finding that has garnered substantial attention within the scientific community.

This line of work addresses a critical gap in understanding the molecular drivers of insulin resistance associated with obesity. By isolating serum retinol binding protein 4 as a contributing factor, the research offers a new perspective on the pathophysiology of type 2 diabetes, moving beyond traditional markers to identify novel therapeutic targets.

The significance of this contribution is evidenced by its high citation count, indicating widespread recognition and utility in the field. Furthermore, analysis of citing literature reveals that 100% of classified citations originate from independent researchers, underscoring the work's broad impact and acceptance beyond the researcher's immediate academic circle.

INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 3

CORE PAPER

[Serum retinol binding protein 4 contributes to insulin resistance in obesity and type 2 diabetes](#)

2005 · Nature · 3,113 citations (GS)

Field-normalised: 2,145 Semantic Scholar citations place it in the top 1% of Medicine papers from 2005 indexed by Semantic Scholar, by citation count.

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
1	Mechanisms of insulin action and insulin resistance (2018)	Yale University School of Medicine	United States	—
2	Adipokines: masterminds of metabolic inflammation (2024)	Fondazione Policlinico Universitario Agostino Gemelli IRCCS, Medical University of Innsbruck	Austria, Italy	—
3	Anti-Inflammatory and Immunomodulatory Effects of Probiotics in Gut Inflammation: A Door to the Body (2021)	University of Bari Aldo Moro	Italy	—

Independent citing papers only; self- and co-author citations excluded. The S2 column flags citations Semantic Scholar identifies as *influential* — ones that substantively build on the work (S2's isInfluential signal, Valenzuela et al. 2015) — the “built on / relied upon” pattern the AAO credits. Counsel should quote the citing text for the strongest of these.

D. Citing-Institution Prestige & Geography

Top citing institutions

Institution	Country	World ranking	Citing papers
Yale University School of Medicine	United States	—	1
University of Bari Aldo Moro	Italy	THE 601–800 · QS 801-850	1
Medical University of Innsbruck	Austria	THE 201–250	1

Institution	Country	World ranking	Citing papers
Fondazione Policlinico Universitario Agostino Gemelli IRCCS	Italy	SCImago #1031	1

Geographic distribution of citing authors

Country	Citing papers
Italy	2
Austria	1
United States	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.

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	Serum retinol binding protein 4 contributes to insulin resistance in obesity and type 2 diabetes	3	8 CFR 204.5(h)(3)(v) – Criterion 5