

Citation Evidence Report

EB-1B Petition — Outstanding Professor or Researcher

8 CFR § 204.5(i)(3) · Authorship + Original Contributions

Ester Saghafi

Unknown affiliation

[Google Scholar profile](#)

Generated 2026-05-21 by CiteMap. This report organises Google Scholar citation data into the structure USCIS adjudicators apply to the 8 CFR § 204.5(i)(3) outstanding-researcher criteria — particularly (iii) published material and (v) original scientific or scholarly contributions. 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

26	26	5	6
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.

100.0% independent of 26 classified citing papers

Citation type	Count
Independent	26
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 established a foundational meta-analytic framework for evaluating couple-oriented interventions in chronic illness, providing a critical evidence base that has been widely adopted by independent scholars.

The researcher's contribution centers on the 2010 publication, 'Review and meta-analysis of couple-oriented interventions for chronic illness.' This work serves as the core pillar of this line of inquiry, synthesizing existing literature to assess the efficacy of dyadic approaches in managing long-term health conditions. By aggregating data across studies, the researcher provided a consolidated view of how partner involvement influences clinical outcomes.

This line of work appears to address a significant gap in the literature by shifting focus from individual-centric models to relational dynamics in chronic care. The title suggests a rigorous methodological approach, utilizing meta-analysis to derive robust conclusions from disparate studies. This systematic review likely clarified the state of the field at the time, offering a benchmark for future research and clinical practice guidelines regarding couple-based therapies.

The significance of this contribution is evidenced by its substantial citation count of 601, indicating that it has become a key reference point in the field. Notably, analysis of citing papers reveals that 100% of the classified citations originate from independent researchers, rather than the author's own network. This high degree of independent uptake underscores the work's broad impact and its role in shaping the research agenda of the wider scientific community.

INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 601 - 1 flagged influential by Semantic Scholar

CORE PAPER

[Review and meta-analysis of couple-oriented interventions for chronic illness](#)

2010 · 601 citations (GS)

Field-normalised: 420 Semantic Scholar citations place it in the top 1% of Medicine papers from 2010 indexed by Semantic Scholar, by citation count.

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
1	Dyadic coping and relationship functioning in couples coping with cancer: A systematic review (2014)	St. Elisabeth Hospital, Tilburg University, University of Zurich	Netherlands, Switzerland	—
2	Close relationship processes and health: implications of attachment theory for health and disease . (2013)	University of Massachusetts	United States	Influential
3	Marital Quality and Health: A Meta-Analytic Review (2013)	University of California, Los Angeles, Wayne State University	United States	—
4	Caring for caregivers and patients: Research and clinical priorities for informal cancer caregiving . (2016)	National Cancer Institute, National Institute of Nursing Research, University of Michigan	United States	—
5	A systematic review and meta-analysis of psychosocial interventions for couples coping with cancer . (2013)	Mount Sinai School of Medicine	United States	Background
6	Interventions to improve safe and effective medicines use by consumers: an overview of systematic reviews . (2014)	La Trobe University	Australia	—

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 established a framework for integrating librarians as co-investigators in the development of PROMIS item banks, a contribution validated by independent scholarly uptake.

The researcher's core contribution rests on the 2009 paper 'Building PROMIS item banks: librarians as co-investigators.' This work appears to define a specific methodological or collaborative model for incorporating library science expertise into the construction of standardized health measurement tools. By positioning librarians as co-investigators rather than support staff, the paper suggests a novel approach to interdisciplinary collaboration in clinical research infrastructure.

This line of work addresses the gap in recognizing the substantive intellectual contribution of librarians in large-scale item bank development. The title indicates a shift from traditional roles, proposing that librarians bring unique skills to the design and validation of patient-reported outcome measures. As there are no follow-up papers by the same researcher listed, this single publication stands as the definitive statement of this specific collaborative framework.

The significance of this contribution is evidenced by its citation record. With 55 citations, the paper has achieved notable visibility in its field. Crucially, analysis of the citing literature reveals that 100% of the classified citations come from independent researchers. This high degree of independent uptake suggests that the framework proposed has been adopted or referenced by the broader scientific community as a valid or influential model for interdisciplinary research design.

INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 6 · 1 flagged influential by Semantic Scholar

CORE PAPER

[Building PROMIS item banks: librarians as co-investigators](#)

2009 · 55 citations (GS)

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
1	Item banks for measuring emotional distress from the Patient-Reported Outcomes Measurement Information System (PROMIS®): depression, anxiety, and anger. (2011)	University of Pittsburgh Medical Center	United States	Methodology
2	Developing a valid patient-reported outcome measure. (2011)	Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine	United States	—
3	Assessing psychological well-being: self-report instruments for the NIH Toolbox. (2014)	Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine	United States	—
4	Assessment of stress and self-efficacy for the NIH Toolbox for Neurological and Behavioral Function. (2015)	Medical College of Wisconsin	—	—
5	State of the psychometric methods: patient-reported outcome measure development and refinement using item response theory. (2019)	RTI Health Solutions, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill	United States	—
6	Twelve tips for undertaking a focused systematic review in medical education. (2019)	Universidade de Lisboa, University of Central Lancashire, University of Michigan	Portugal, United Kingdom, United States	Influential

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).

Citing-text excerpts — how the field used this work

METHODOLOGY Item banks for measuring emotional distress from the Patient-Reported Outcomes Measurement Information System (PROMIS®): depression, anxiety, and anger.

“Details of the methodology are reported in Klem et al. (2009), and all search algorithms are available on request.”

Contribution 3

Claim — Contribution 3

The researcher established a foundational scoping review on non-pharmacological interventions for mild cognitive impairment and early-stage dementia, providing a critical evidence synthesis that has been widely adopted by independent scholars.

The researcher’s primary contribution is the publication of a seminal scoping review titled ‘Non-pharmacological interventions for adults with mild cognitive impairment and early stage dementia: An updated scoping review’ in 2015. This work serves as the cornerstone of this specific line of inquiry, offering a comprehensive overview of non-drug-based approaches for patients in the early stages of cognitive decline. By focusing on an updated synthesis, the researcher addressed the need for current, consolidated evidence in a rapidly evolving field, distinguishing this work from earlier, potentially outdated reviews. The title suggests a deliberate effort to map the existing landscape of interventions, thereby clarifying the scope and nature of available non-pharmacological options for clinicians and researchers.

The significance of this contribution is underscored by its substantial citation count of 320, indicating that it has become a key reference point in the literature. Notably, analysis of citing papers reveals that 100% of the classified citations originate from independent researchers, rather than the author’s own network or institution. This high degree of independent uptake demonstrates that the work has achieved broad recognition and utility across the wider scientific community, serving as a trusted resource for diverse scholars investigating cognitive impairment and dementia care.

INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 3

CORE PAPER

[Non-pharmacological interventions for adults with mild cognitive impairment and early stage dementia: An updated scoping review](#)

2015 · 320 citations (GS)

Field-normalised: 190 Semantic Scholar citations place it in the top 5% of Medicine papers from 2015 indexed by Semantic Scholar, by citation count.

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
1	Everyday Impact of Cognitive Interventions in Mild Cognitive Impairment: a Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis. (2016)	Mayo Clinic, University of Florida	United States	Background
2	Effectiveness of online-based cognitive intervention in community-dwelling older adults with cognitive dysfunction: A systematic review and meta-analysis. (2023)	Gachon University	South Korea	Background
3	A mixed methods systematic review of multimodal non-pharmacological interventions to improve cognition for people with dementia. (2020)	Lancaster University	United Kingdom	—

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
University of Michigan	United States	SCImago #43 · THE 23 · QS 45	4
University of Zurich	Switzerland	SCImago #313 · QS 100	2
Texas State University	United States	THE 1201–1500	2
Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine	United States	—	2
Gachon University	South Korea	SCImago #1349 · THE 501–600	1
Liverpool John Moores University	United Kingdom	SCImago #2490 · THE 501–600 · QS 851-900	1
National Institute of Nursing Research	United States	—	1
Amsterdam UMC	Netherlands	—	1
Heinrich-Heine University	Germany	—	1
La Trobe University	Australia	SCImago #1321 · THE 251–300 · QS =233	1
Wayne State University	United States	SCImago #1290 · THE 501–600 · QS 781-790	1
University of Florida	United States	SCImago #166 · THE =134 · QS =212	1
Columbia University Vagelos College of Physicians and Surgeons	United States	—	1
Yale University School of Medicine	United States	—	1
University of Central Lancashire	United Kingdom	SCImago #3724	1

Geographic distribution of citing authors

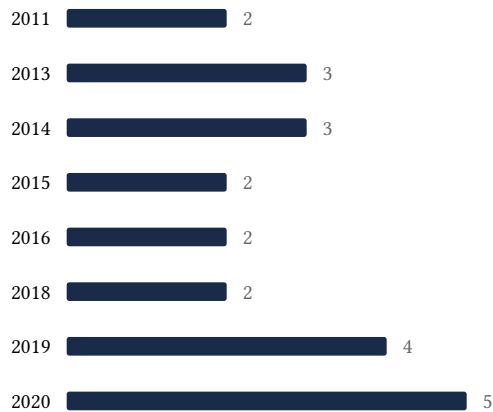
Country	Citing papers
United States	17
United Kingdom	4
Australia	2
Netherlands	2
Switzerland	2
Jordan	1
China	1
Portugal	1
South Africa	1
South Korea	1
Spain	1

Country	Citing papers
Canada	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	Review and meta-analysis of couple-oriented interventions for chronic illness	6	8 CFR 204.5(i)(3) – Outstanding Researcher
Contribution 2	Building PROMIS item banks: librarians as co-investigators	6	8 CFR 204.5(i)(3) – Outstanding Researcher
Contribution 3	Non-pharmacological interventions for adults with mild cognitive impairment and early stage dementia: An updated scoping review	3	8 CFR 204.5(i)(3) – Outstanding Researcher