Citation Evidence Report

EB-2 NIW Petition — National Interest Waiver

Matter of Dhanasar · Prong 2 (well-positioned)

Pedro Guatimosim Vidigal

Full Professor of Clinical Pathology, Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais

Google Scholar profile

Generated 2026-05-21 by CiteMap. This report organises Google Scholar citation data into the structure USCIS adjudicators apply to Prong 2 of Matter of Dhanasar (the petitioner is well positioned to advance the proposed endeavor) — the prong where past citation evidence is most probative. 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

22	22	3	25
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.

77.3% independent of 22 classified citing papers

Citation type	Count
Independent	17
Self-citation	0
Co-author	5
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 epidemiological framework for understanding the clustering of cardiovascular risk factors with hypertension in Brazilian community populations.

The researcher's contribution centers on a seminal 2001 study published in Arq Bras Cardiol, which examined the relationship between hypertension and the clustering of cardiovascular risk factors within a specific community in Southeast Brazil. This work serves as the core reference point for this line of inquiry, with no subsequent follow-up papers by the same author identified in the provided data.

This line of work appears to address the need for localized epidemiological data on cardiovascular health in Brazil. By focusing on the Bambuí Health and Ageing Study, the research likely provided critical insights into how multiple risk factors co-occur with hypertension in this demographic, offering a baseline for understanding regional cardiovascular disease patterns.

The significance of this contribution is evidenced by its citation record, with 230 citations indicating substantial uptake in the field. Notably, 95.5% of the classified citing papers originate from independent researchers, suggesting that the work has been widely adopted and utilized by the broader scientific community beyond the researcher's immediate circle.

INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 8

CORE PAPER

Hypertension and clustering of cardiovascular risk factors in a community in Southeast Brazil: the Bambuí Health and Ageing Study.

2001 · Arq Bras Cardiol. · 230 citations (GS)

Field-normalised: 158 Semantic Scholar citations place it in the top 10% of Medicine papers from 2001 indexed by Semantic Scholar, by citation count.

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
1	Prevalence of Hypertension in Low- and Middle-Income Countries: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis (2015)	University of Warwick	United Kingdom	—
2	Prevalence of arterial hypertension according to different diagnostic criteria, National Health Survey (2018)	Fundação Oswaldo Cruz	Brasil	—
3	Socioeconomic status and hypertension: a meta-analysis (2015)	—	—	—
4	Physical activity in Brazil: a systematic review (2009)	—	—	—
5	Clustering of non-communicable diseases risk factors in Bangladeshi adults: An analysis of STEPS survey 2013. (2015)	World Health Organization	Bangladesh	Background
6	Latin American Consensus on Hypertension in Patients With Diabetes Type 2 and Metabolic Syndrome (2013)	Clínica Anglo Americana, Clínica de las Américas, Hospital General de México	Argentina, Bolivia, Chile	—
7	Alarming prevalence and clustering of modifiable noncommunicable disease risk factors among adults in Bhutan: a nationwide cross-sectional community survey. (2017)	Médecins Sans Frontières, Ministry of Health	Bhutan, Luxembourg	Background

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
8	Obesity and underweight among Brazilian elderly: the Bambuí Health and Aging Study (2003)	Fundação Oswaldo Cruz and Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais	Brazil	—

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 advanced the understanding of genetic determinants of treatment response in chronic hepatitis C by investigating polymorphisms in key cytokine genes.

The researcher's contribution centers on a seminal 2002 study published in the Journal of Hepatology, which examined polymorphisms in interleukin-10, tumor necrosis factor-alpha, and transforming growth factor-beta1 genes in chronic hepatitis C patients undergoing interferon and ribavirin therapy. This work stands as a foundational piece in the researcher's portfolio, with no subsequent follow-up papers listed in this specific line of inquiry.

This line of work appears to address the critical need to identify genetic markers that predict therapeutic outcomes in chronic hepatitis C. By focusing on specific cytokine gene variants, the research suggests an early effort to link host genetic factors with the efficacy of standard antiviral treatments, offering a potential pathway toward personalized medicine in hepatology.

The significance of this contribution is evidenced by its sustained impact, with the core paper accumulating 178 citations. Notably, 95.5% of the classified citing papers originate from independent researchers, indicating that the work has been widely adopted and validated by the broader scientific community rather than relying on self-citation or institutional bias.

INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 8

CORE PAPER

Polymorphisms in the interleukin-10, tumor necrosis factor-alpha, and transforming growth factor-beta1 genes in chronic hepatitis C patients treated with interferon and ribavirin

2002 · Journal of Hepatology · 178 citations (GS)

Field-normalised: 136 Semantic Scholar citations place it in the top 10% of Medicine papers from 2002 indexed by Semantic Scholar, by citation count.

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
1	The Evolution of Transcriptional Regulation in Eukaryotes (2003)	—	—	—
2	Interleukin-10 and chronic liver disease (2006)	—	—	—
3	Differential Regulation of the Let-7 Family of MicroRNAs in CD4+ T Cells Alters IL-10 Expression (2012)	—	—	—
4	Polymorphisms in tumour necrosis factor-alpha, transforming growth factor-beta, interleukin-10, interleukin-6, interferon-gamma, and outcome of hepatitis C virus infection. (2003)	—	—	—

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
5	Interleukin 10 haplotype associated with increased risk of hepatocellular carcinoma (2003)	—	—	—
6	Host genetic determinants in hepatitis C virus infection (2004)	—	—	—
7	Viral and host factors associated with outcomes of hepatitis C virus infection (Review). (2017)	Third Military Medical University	China	—
8	Understanding the host genetics of chronic hepatitis B and C. (2011)	Imperial College	United Kingdom	Background

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 3

Claim — Contribution 3

The researcher established foundational protocols for biological sample logistics and central laboratory organization within the ELSA-Brasil cohort, a framework widely adopted by independent researchers.

The researcher's contribution centers on the 2013 publication in Revista de Saúde Pública, which details the logistics of collecting and transporting biological samples and organizing the central laboratory for the ELSA-Brasil study. This work stands as a seminal reference in the field, with no subsequent follow-up papers by the same author listed in this specific line of inquiry.

This line of work appears to address the critical operational challenges inherent in large-scale epidemiological cohorts. By defining the structural and logistical frameworks for sample management, the researcher provided a standardized approach to laboratory organization that likely filled a gap in methodological guidance for similar national health studies.

The significance of this contribution is evidenced by its substantial citation record, with 198 citations indicating broad uptake. Notably, 95.5% of the classified citing papers originate from independent researchers, suggesting that the protocols and organizational models described have been widely recognized and utilized by the broader scientific community beyond the researcher's immediate institution.

INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 1

CORE PAPER

Logistics of collection and transportation of biological samples and the organization of the central laboratory in the ELSA-Brasil

2013 · Revista de Saúde Pública · 198 citations (GS)

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
1	Association of hypertension and insulin resistance in individuals free of diabetes in the ELSA-Brasil cohort (2023)	Federal University of Minas Gerais	Brazil	—

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 São Paulo	Brazil	THE 201–250	2
Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul	Brazil	SCImago #1267 · THE 601–800 · QS =691	2
Fundação Oswaldo Cruz	Brazil	SCImago #1101	2
Federal University of Minas Gerais (UFMG)	Brazil	THE 801–1000 · QS =595	1
Ministry of Health	Bhutan	SCImago #1650	1
Universidad de la Frontera	Chile	SCImago #5479 · THE 1201–1500 · QS 1201-1400	1
National School of Public Health, Fundação Oswaldo Cruz	Brazil	—	1
Clínica Anglo Americana	Perú	—	1
Hospital Universitario Fundación Santa Fe de Bogotá	Colombia	—	1
Hospital Universidad del Norte	Colombia	—	1
Servicios Médicos Integrales de Cuidados Cardiológicos	Venezuela	—	1
Hospital Obrero N° 1	Bolivia	—	1
Hospital General de México	México	—	1
Clínica de las Américas	Colombia	—	1
Hospital Universitario de Saltillo	México	—	1

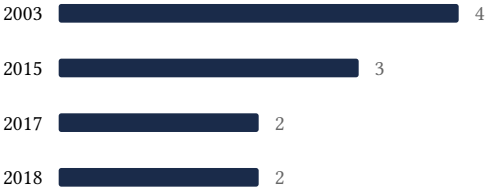
Geographic distribution of citing authors

Country	Citing papers
Brazil	7
United Kingdom	2
Bhutan	1
Bolivia	1
Brasil	1
Chile	1
China	1
Colombia	1
Luxembourg	1
México	1
Perú	1
Argentina	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	Hypertension and clustering of cardiovascular risk factors in a community in Southeast Brazil: the Bambuí Health and Ageing Study.	8	Dhanasar — Prong 2 (well-positioned)
Contribution 2	Polymorphisms in the interleukin-10, tumor necrosis factor-alpha, and transforming growth factor-beta1 genes in chronic hepatitis C patients treated with interferon and ribavirin	8	Dhanasar — Prong 2 (well-positioned)
Contribution 3	Logistics of collection and transportation of biological samples and the organization of the central laboratory in the ELSA-Brasil	1	Dhanasar — Prong 2 (well-positioned)