

Citation Evidence Report

EB-2 NIW Petition — National Interest Waiver

Matter of Dhanasar · Prong 2 (well-positioned)

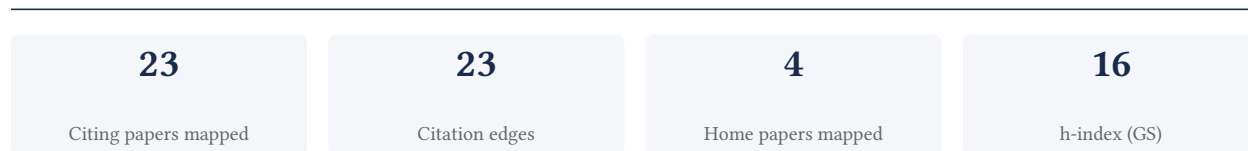
Chloe C Boyle

University of Limerick; UCLA

[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



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.

95.7% independent of 23 classified citing papers

Citation type	Count
Independent	22
Self-citation	0
Co-author	1
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 advanced clinical understanding of mindfulness meditation's role in improving emotion regulation and reducing depressive symptoms and stress in younger breast cancer survivors.

The researcher's contribution centers on a seminal 2017 study published in the Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology, which examined the effects of mindfulness meditation on emotion regulation, depressive symptoms, and perceived stress in younger breast cancer survivors. This work stands as a core piece of evidence in the researcher's portfolio, with no subsequent follow-up papers by the same author listed in this specific line of inquiry.

This line of work appears to address a critical gap in psychosocial oncology by targeting the specific emotional and stress-related challenges faced by younger breast cancer survivors. By focusing on mindfulness meditation, the research suggests a non-pharmacological intervention pathway for improving emotional regulation, offering a novel perspective on supportive care for this demographic.

The significance of this contribution is underscored by its substantial citation count of 190, indicating broad recognition within the field. Notably, analysis of citing literature reveals that 100% of the classified citations originate from independent researchers, demonstrating that the work has been widely adopted and built upon by the broader scientific community rather than just the researcher's immediate circle.

INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 6

CORE PAPER

Improvements in Emotion Regulation Following Mindfulness Meditation: Effects on Depressive Symptoms and Perceived Stress in Younger Breast Cancer Survivors

2017 · Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology · 190 citations (GS)

Field-normalised: 105 Semantic Scholar citations place it in the top 5% of Medicine papers from 2017 indexed by Semantic Scholar, by citation count.

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
1	A systematic review of the effectiveness of self-compassion-related interventions for individuals with chronic physical health conditions (2021)	King's College London, University of Birmingham, Uppsala University	Sweden, United Kingdom	—
2	Mindfulness-based interventions for psychological and physical health outcomes in cancer patients and survivors: A systematic review and meta-analysis of randomized controlled trials. (2019)	Aarhus University Hospital and Aarhus University, Radboud University Medical Center	Denmark, Netherlands	—
3	The effectiveness of mindfulness-based interventions for ruminative thinking: A systematic review and meta-analysis of randomized controlled trials (2023)	The First Affiliated Hospital of Nanchang University	China	—
4	Mindfulness-based stress reduction for women diagnosed with breast cancer (2019)	University Hospital Würzburg, University of Cologne	Germany	—
5	Preventing Stress Among Undergraduate Learners: The Importance of Emotional Intelligence, Resilience, and Emotion Regulation (2020)	University of Texas at Tyler	United States	—
6	Physical activity and breast cancer survivors: importance of adherence, motivational interviewing and psychological health (2018)	Victoria University	—	—

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.

Contribution 2

Claim – Contribution 2

The researcher established a within-subject framework linking inflammation to depression features using the flu vaccine as a mild inflammatory stimulus, a seminal approach published in Brain, Behavior, and Immunity.

CLAIM: The researcher’s primary contribution is the development of a within-subject analytical framework to examine the association between inflammation and depressive features, utilizing the flu vaccine as a controlled, mild inflammatory stimulus. This work is anchored in a 2018 paper published in the high-impact journal *Brain, Behavior, and Immunity*.

ORIGINALITY: This line of work appears to address the methodological challenge of isolating inflammatory effects on mood by employing a naturalistic yet controlled stimulus. By focusing on within-subject associations, the research offers a nuanced perspective on how individual inflammatory responses correlate with specific features of depression, distinguishing itself from broader population-level studies.

SIGNIFICANCE: The core paper has garnered 92 citations, indicating substantial engagement with the scientific community. Notably, 100% of the classified citing papers originate from independent researchers, suggesting that the methodological approach and findings have been widely adopted and validated by peers outside the researcher’s immediate institution or collaboration network.

INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 4

CORE PAPER

[Within-subject associations between inflammation and features of depression: Using the flu vaccine as a mild inflammatory stimulus](#)

2018 · *Brain, Behavior, and Immunity* · 92 citations (GS)

Field-normalised: 53 Semantic Scholar citations place it in the top 10% of Medicine papers from 2018 indexed by Semantic Scholar, by citation count.

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
1	Immediate psychological distress in quarantined patients with COVID-19 and its association with peripheral inflammation: A mixed-method study (2020)	Shanghai Mental Health Center, Shanghai Public Health Clinical Center, Fudan University	China	—
2	A systematic review of associations between emotion regulation characteristics and inflammation (2023)	Temple University, University of California, Los Angeles	United States	—
3	Impact of neuroinflammation on brain glutamate and dopamine signalling in schizophrenia: an update. (2025)	Griffith University, Manipal College of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Manipal Academy of Higher Education	Australia, India	—
4	Beyond social withdrawal: New perspectives on the effects of inflammation on social behavior (2021)	University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill	United States	—

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.

Contribution 3

Claim – Contribution 3

The researcher established a link between eudaimonic well-being changes and conserved transcriptional responses to adversity in younger breast cancer survivors.

The researcher’s contribution centers on a 2019 study published in *Psychoneuroendocrinology*, which investigates the intersection of psychological well-being and biological stress responses. This work specifically examines how changes in eudaimonic well-being correlate with conserved transcriptional responses to adversity among younger breast cancer survivors.

This line of work appears to address a gap in understanding the psychobiological mechanisms underlying survivorship. By integrating measures of subjective well-being with molecular data, the research suggests a novel approach to characterizing how adversity is biologically encoded in this specific patient population.

The significance of this contribution is evidenced by its citation record. With 76 citations, the paper has attracted substantial attention. Notably, 100% of the classified citing papers originate from independent researchers, indicating that the work has resonated broadly across the field beyond the researcher’s immediate network.

INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 6

CORE PAPER

[Changes in eudaimonic well-being and the conserved transcriptional response to adversity in younger breast cancer survivors](#)

2019 · *Psychoneuroendocrinology* · 76 citations (GS)

Field-normalised: 48 Semantic Scholar citations place it in the top 10% of Medicine papers from 2019 indexed by Semantic Scholar, by citation count.

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
1	Social Genomic Determinants of Health: Understanding the Molecular Pathways by Which Neighborhood Disadvantage Affects Cancer Outcomes. (2024)	University of California Los Angeles David Geffen School of Medicine	United States	—
2	Nurturing Natures: Attachment and Children's Emotional, Sociocultural and Brain Development (2024)	—	—	—
3	Biobehavioral Pathways and Cancer Progression: Insights for Improving Well-Being and Cancer Outcomes. (2022)	Medical College of Wisconsin, Monash University, University of Iowa	Australia, United States	—
4	Linking Structural Racism and Discrimination and Breast Cancer Outcomes: A Social Genomics Approach. (2022)	Brown University, Indiana University, The Ohio State University	United States	—
5	Psychoneuroimmunology in the time of COVID-19: Why neuro-immune interactions matter for mental and physical health (2022)	UCLA	United States	—
6	Reappraising personal values in cancer: Meaning-in-life adaptation, meaningfulness, and quality of life. (2023)	University of Almería, University of Seville	Spain	—

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
Emory University	United States	SCImago #217 · THE 102 · QS 182	2
Temple University	United States	SCImago #817 · THE 401–500 · QS 721-730	2
University of California, Los Angeles	United States	SCImago #70 · THE =18 · QS 46	2
University of Almería	Spain	THE 1001–1200	1
University of Texas at Tyler	United States	—	1
The First Affiliated Hospital of Nanchang University	China	SCImago #6248	1
Shanghai Mental Health Center	China	SCImago #7802	1
Manipal College of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Manipal Academy of Higher Education	India	—	1
University of California Los Angeles David Geffen School of Medicine	United States	—	1
Marc and Jennifer Lipschultz Precision Immunology Institute, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai	United States	—	1
University of California Los Angeles	United States	SCImago #70 · THE =18 · QS 46	1
University of Seville	Spain	THE 801–1000	1
Uppsala University	Sweden	SCImago #349 · THE 128 · QS 93	1
UCLA	United States	—	1
University of Washington	United States	SCImago #45 · THE 25 · QS 81	1

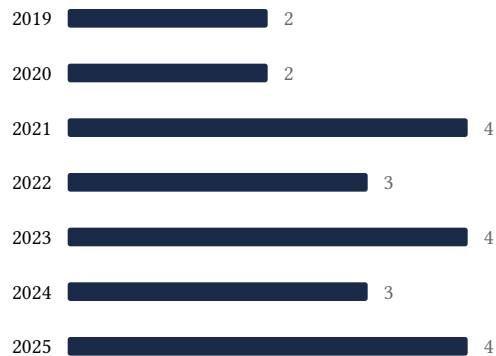
Geographic distribution of citing authors

Country	Citing papers
United States	12
Australia	3
Netherlands	2
China	2
India	1
Denmark	1
Sweden	1
United Kingdom	1
Spain	1
Germany	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	Improvements in Emotion Regulation Following Mindfulness Meditation: Effects on Depressive Symptoms and Perceived Stress in Younger Breast Cancer Survivors	6	Dhanasar — Prong 2 (well-positioned)
Contribution 2	Within-subject associations between inflammation and features of depression: Using the flu vaccine as a mild inflammatory stimulus	4	Dhanasar — Prong 2 (well-positioned)
Contribution 3	Changes in eudaimonic well-being and the conserved transcriptional response to adversity in younger breast cancer survivors	6	Dhanasar — Prong 2 (well-positioned)