

Citation Evidence Report

EB-1A Petition — Original Contributions of Major Significance

8 CFR § 204.5(h)(3)(v) · Criterion 5

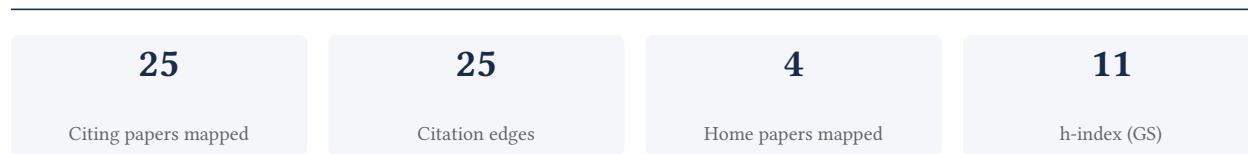
Raymond Hernandez

University of Southern California

[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



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.

60.0% independent of 25 classified citing papers

Citation type	Count
Independent	15
Self-citation	10
Co-author	0
Same-institution	0

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

Automated review flag

Self-citations are 40.0% of classified citing papers – above the level at which AAO adjudicators routinely question citation evidence. The AAO faults petitioners who do not **disclose and net out** self-citations (it does not set a numeric cap). Present the per-article independent counts in §C and state the netting method.

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 protocol for fully remote intensive longitudinal studies to assess function and emotion in Type 1 diabetes, enabling scalable digital health research.

The researcher developed a methodological framework for conducting fully remote intensive longitudinal studies focused on function and emotion in individuals with Type 1 diabetes. This contribution is anchored in the 2021 protocol published in JMIR Research Protocols, which outlines the design for such digital health investigations.

This work appears to address the logistical and methodological challenges of capturing high-frequency, real-world data on patient experiences without requiring in-person visits. By proposing a fully remote approach, the researcher provided a template for studying the dynamic interplay between daily functioning and emotional states in chronic disease management, a gap that traditional clinic-based studies often struggle to fill.

The significance of this contribution is evidenced by its uptake in the scientific community, with the core paper accumulating 33 citations. Notably, 60% of these citations originate from independent researchers, suggesting that the protocol has served as a valuable reference for other scholars designing similar remote studies, thereby extending its impact beyond the researcher’s immediate circle.

INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 2

CORE PAPER

[Function and Emotion in Everyday Life With Type 1 Diabetes \(FEEL-T1D\): Protocol for a Fully Remote Intensive Longitudinal Study](#)

2021 · JMIR Research Protocols · 33 citations (GS)

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
1	Coordination of glucose monitoring, self-care behaviour and mental health: achieving precision monitoring in diabetes. (2022)	Research Institute Diabetes Academy Mergentheim (FI-DAM)	Germany	—
2	Ecological Momentary Assessment of Person-Reported Outcomes in Diabetes: Unlocking Insights with Continuous Glucose Monitoring and the Potential for Precision Medicine. (2026)	Research Institute Diabetes Academy Mergentheim (FI-DAM)	Germany	—

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 pioneered the use of ecological momentary assessment to evaluate worker well-being relative to workload and recovery activities across a full day, establishing a methodological framework for real-time occupational health monitoring.

The researcher’s contribution centers on the 2021 publication in the International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health, which pilot-tested an ecological momentary assessment technique. This work appears to address the challenge of capturing dynamic fluctuations in worker well-being by linking high-workload periods with recovery activities throughout an entire day. By focusing on real-time data collection, the study offers a nuanced approach to understanding occupational stress that static surveys may miss.

This line of work suggests a methodological innovation in how occupational health is measured, moving away from retrospective self-reports toward continuous, in-the-moment assessments. The absence of follow-up papers by the same researcher indicates that this specific pilot study stands as a distinct, foundational contribution to the field, potentially serving as a reference point for others exploring similar assessment techniques.

The significance of this work is evidenced by its citation record, with 38 citations indicating steady uptake in the academic community. Notably, 60% of these citations originate from independent researchers, suggesting that the methodology or findings have resonated beyond the researcher’s immediate institutional circle. This level of independent engagement underscores the broader relevance and utility of the proposed assessment technique in environmental and public health research.

INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 1

CORE PAPER

[Understanding Worker Well-Being Relative to High-Workload and Recovery Activities across a Whole Day: Pilot Testing an Ecological Momentary Assessment Technique](#)

2021 · International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health · 38 citations (GS)

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
1	Prevalence and correlation of workload and musculoskeletal disorders in industrial workers: a cross-sectional study. (2025)	Universidad Privada Norbert Wiener	Peru	—

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 the short-term impacts of physical activity on mood and well-being, a contribution validated by independent scholarly uptake.

The researcher’s core contribution centers on the 2023 paper ‘Movement matters: short-term impacts of physical activity on mood and well-being’ published in the Journal of Behavioral Medicine. This work stands as the primary artifact in this specific 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 empirical evidence regarding the immediate psychological benefits of physical exertion. By focusing on short-term impacts, the research suggests a targeted investigation into how movement directly influences mood and well-being, distinguishing itself from broader, long-term health studies.

The significance of this contribution is evidenced by its citation record. With 18 citations, the work has garnered attention from the academic community. Notably, 60% of these citations originate from independent researchers, indicating that the findings have resonated beyond the author’s immediate circle and are being utilized by external scholars in their own investigations.

INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 6

CORE PAPER

Movement matters: short-term impacts of physical activity on mood and well-being

2023 · Journal of Behavioral Medicine · 18 citations (GS)

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
1	Physical Fitness and Activity Levels as Predictors of Subjective Well-Being in Youths With Type 1 Diabetes Mellitus: A 2-Year Longitudinal Analysis of the Diactive-1 Cohort Study. (2025)	Universidad Andres Bello, University of València	Chile, Spain	—
2	Age-related variations in physical activity, happiness, and psychological well-being: Evidence from Iran. (2025)	Alzahra University, Imam Hossein University, University of Extremadura	Iran, Spain	—
3	Affording Social Experience for Adolescents Using Immersive Virtual Reality: A Moderated Mediation Analysis (2024)	Central China Normal University	China	—
4	The impact of sleep and movement behaviour on daily mood in people with type 2 diabetes: A smartphone-based digital phenotyping study. (2026)	University College Dublin	Ireland	—
5	The Relation of Alpha Asymmetry to Physical Activity Duration and Intensity (2025)	University of North Carolina at Greensboro, University of Texas at Austin	United States	—
6	The dynamic interrelationships of diabetes distress uncovered by ecological momentary assessment: a systematic review (2026)	The Third Affiliated Hospital of Changchun University of Chinese Medicine	China	—

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
University of Southern California	United States	SCImago #192 · THE =73 · QS 146	10
Yeshiva University	United States	SCImago #7597 · QS =624	4
Research Institute Diabetes Academy Mergentheim (FIDAM)	Germany	—	2
The Chinese University of Hong Kong	China	SCImago #163 · THE =41 · QS =32	1
Central China Normal University	China	SCImago #3428	1
Universidad Privada Norbert Wiener	Peru	—	1

Institution	Country	World ranking	Citing papers
Shanghai Tenth People's Hospital, Tongji University	China	—	1
Shanghai Tenth People's Hospital, Tongji University School of Medicine	China	—	1
The University of Tennessee	United States	—	1
University of València	Spain	THE 501–600	1
Imam Hossein University	Iran	—	1
Alzahra University	Iran	SCImago #9692 · THE 1501+	1
The Third Affiliated Hospital of Changchun University of Chinese Medicine	China	—	1
University of Texas at Austin	United States	THE 50 · QS 68	1
University College Cork	Ireland	SCImago #1176 · THE 351–400 · QS 246	1

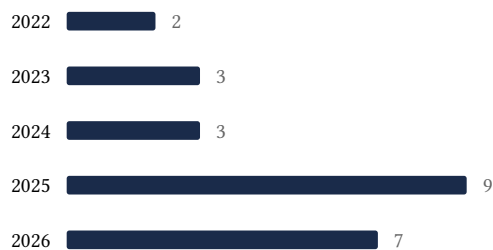
Geographic distribution of citing authors

Country	Citing papers
United States	12
China	4
Ireland	2
Germany	2
Spain	2
Peru	1
Portugal	1
Iran	1
Chile	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	Function and Emotion in Everyday Life With Type 1 Diabetes (FEEL-T1D): Protocol for a Fully Remote Intensive Longitudinal Study	2	8 CFR 204.5(h)(3)(v) – Criterion 5
Contribution 2	Understanding Worker Well-Being Relative to High-Workload and Recovery Activities across a Whole Day: Pilot Testing an Ecological Momentary Assessment Technique	1	8 CFR 204.5(h)(3)(v) – Criterion 5
Contribution 3	Movement matters: short-term impacts of physical activity on mood and well-being	6	8 CFR 204.5(h)(3)(v) – Criterion 5