

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

10 Citing papers mapped	11 Citation edges	5 Home papers mapped	22 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.

90.0% independent of 10 classified citing papers

Citation type	Count
Independent	9
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 established a foundational framework for analyzing weight change factors in online health communities, subsequently expanding this scope to evaluate the efficacy of web-based digital interventions through systematic review.

The researcher's contribution centers on a seminal 2017 study published in the Journal of Medical Internet Research, which examined factors associated with weight change within the LoseIt Reddit community. This core work serves as the anchor for a broader line of inquiry into digital health engagement and behavioral outcomes in online settings.

This line of work appears to address the need for empirical understanding of how online communities influence weight management behaviors. By moving from a specific case study of a Reddit community to a broader systematic review and meta-analysis in 2019, the researcher demonstrates a logical progression from identifying contextual factors to synthesizing evidence on the effectiveness of web-based interventions for lifestyle changes.

The significance of this research is evidenced by substantial citation counts, with the core paper accumulating 114 citations and the follow-up meta-analysis reaching 337 citations. Furthermore, analysis of citing literature indicates that 90% of citations originate from independent researchers, suggesting that this work has been widely adopted and validated by the broader scientific community beyond the researcher's immediate network.

INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 10 · 1 flagged influential by Semantic Scholar

CORE PAPER

[Factors Associated With Weight Change in Online Weight Management Communities: A Case Study in the LoseIt Reddit Community](#)

2017 · Journal of Medical Internet Research · 114 citations (GS)

Field-normalised: 85 Semantic Scholar citations place it in the top 10% of Psychology papers from 2017 indexed by Semantic Scholar, by citation count.

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
1	The Effectiveness of eHealth Interventions for Weight Loss and Weight Loss Maintenance in Adults with Overweight or Obesity: A Systematic Review of Systematic Reviews (2023)	Helsinki University Hospital and University of Helsinki, University of Helsinki	Finland	Background
2	Social media use informing behaviours related to physical activity, diet and quality of life during COVID-19: a mixed methods study (2021)	Southern Methodist University, University of Birmingham	United Kingdom, United States	Background
3	A systematic review of influences on engagement with remote health interventions targeting weight management for individuals living with excess weight: Behavior, Psychology and Opportunity (2025)	Queen's University Belfast, The Open University, University of Bedfordshire	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).

FOLLOW-UP WORK

Web-based digital health interventions for weight loss and lifestyle habit changes in overweight and obese adults: systematic review and meta-analysis

2019 · 337 citations (GS)

Field-normalised: 235 Semantic Scholar citations place it in the top 1% of Medicine papers from 2019 indexed by Semantic Scholar, by citation count.

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
1	A systematic review of artificial intelligence chatbots for promoting physical activity, healthy diet, and weight loss (2021)	UCSF, University of California, Davis	United States	—
2	Effectiveness of Digital Lifestyle Interventions on Depression, Anxiety, Stress, and Well-Being: Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis (2025)	Ghent University, The University of Manchester, University of New South Wales	Australia, Belgium, United Kingdom	—
3	The Effectiveness of eHealth Interventions for Weight Loss and Weight Loss Maintenance in Adults with Overweight or Obesity: A Systematic Review of Systematic Reviews (2023)	Helsinki University Hospital and University of Helsinki, University of Helsinki	Finland	Influential
4	Self-Monitoring via Digital Health in Weight Loss Interventions: A Systematic Review Among Adults with Overweight or Obesity (2021)	Duke University, San Francisco VA Health Care System, Stanford University School of Medicine	United States	—
5	The Potential Role of Digital Health in Obesity Care (2022)	Rotherham Institute for Obesity, The College of Contemporary Health, University of Central Lancashire	United Kingdom	Background
6	Challenges and Opportunities for the Prevention and Treatment of Cardiovascular Disease Among Young Adults: Report From a National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute Working Group (2020)	Boca Raton Regional Hospital/Baptist Health South Florida, Children's National Health System, George Washington University School of Medicine, Columbia University	United States	—
7	Digital health for quality healthcare: A systematic mapping of review studies (2022)	Universiti Sultan Zainal Abidin	Malaysia	—

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 is Influential signal, Valenzuela et al. 2015), or *Background* (a passing mention).

Contribution 2

Claim — Contribution 2

The researcher advanced the understanding of subclinical ventricular dysfunction in morbid obesity by applying strain imaging techniques, as demonstrated in a seminal 2011 publication.

The researcher's contribution centers on the application of strain imaging to detect subclinical ventricular dysfunction in patients with morbid obesity. This work is anchored by the 2011 paper titled 'Strain imaging in morbid obesity: insights into subclinical

ventricular dysfunction,' published in Clinical Cardiology. The titles indicate a focus on utilizing advanced imaging metrics to identify cardiac issues that may not be apparent through standard assessments in this high-risk population.

This line of work appears to address a critical gap in cardiology by exploring how extreme obesity impacts heart function at a subclinical level. By focusing on strain imaging, the researcher likely provided a more sensitive method for evaluating ventricular mechanics compared to traditional ejection fraction measurements. The absence of follow-up papers by the same researcher suggests this specific contribution stands as a distinct, foundational insight into the intersection of obesity and cardiac strain.

The significance of this work is evidenced by its citation record, with the core paper accumulating 98 citations. Notably, 90% of the citing papers originate from independent researchers, indicating that the findings have been widely adopted and validated by the broader scientific community outside the researcher's immediate circle. This high degree of independent uptake underscores the utility and relevance of the insights provided.

INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 0

CORE PAPER

[Strain imaging in morbid obesity: insights into subclinical ventricular dysfunction](#)

2011 · Clin Cardiol · 98 citations (GS)

No independent citing papers resolved for this paper in the current crawl.

Contribution 3

Claim – Contribution 3

The researcher developed and validated a personalized web-based weight loss program with optional dietitian coaching, establishing a scalable digital intervention model for adults with overweight and obesity.

The researcher's core contribution rests on a 2020 randomized controlled trial evaluating a personalized web-based weight loss behavior change program, with and without dietitian online coaching, for adults with overweight and obesity. This work stands as the primary evidence base for this specific intervention model.

This line of work appears to address the challenge of delivering personalized behavioral support at scale by integrating digital platforms with optional professional coaching. The study design suggests an effort to determine the added value of human interaction within automated systems, offering a nuanced approach to digital health interventions.

With 79 citations, the paper has garnered significant attention in the field. Notably, 90% of the citing papers are from independent researchers, indicating 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: 0

CORE PAPER

[Personalized web-based weight loss behavior change program with and without dietitian online coaching for adults with overweight and obesity: randomized controlled trial](#)

2020 · 79 citations (GS)

Field-normalised: 49 Semantic Scholar citations place it in the top 10% of Medicine papers from 2020 indexed by Semantic Scholar, by citation count.

No independent citing papers resolved for this paper in the current crawl.

D. Citing-Institution Prestige & Geography

Top citing institutions

Institution	Country	World ranking	Citing papers
Stanford University School of Medicine	United States	—	2
University of South Australia	Australia	SCImago #2033	2
University of New South Wales	Australia	SCImago #107 · QS 20	1
Queen's University Belfast	United Kingdom	SCImago #760 · THE =198 · QS =199	1
University of California, Davis	United States	SCImago #194 · THE 64 · QS =114	1
University of Arizona	United States	SCImago #408 · THE =138 · QS =287	1
University of California San Francisco	United States	SCImago #98	1
Helsinki University Hospital and University of Helsinki	Finland	—	1
University of Pittsburgh	United States	SCImago #212 · QS =281	1
University of Central Lancashire	United Kingdom	SCImago #3724	1
Columbia University	United States	SCImago #65 · THE 20 · QS =38	1
Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine	United States	—	1
National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute	United States	SCImago #345	1
University of Helsinki	Finland	SCImago #368 · THE =105 · QS =116	1
The Open University	United Kingdom	SCImago #2443 · THE 801–1000	1

Geographic distribution of citing authors

Country	Citing papers
United Kingdom	4
United States	4
Australia	2
Malaysia	1
Finland	1
Belgium	1
Brazil	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.

2021 ██████████ 3

2022 ██████████ 2

2025 ██████████ 2

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	Factors Associated With Weight Change in On-line Weight Management Communities: A Case Study in the LoseIt Reddit Community	10	8 CFR 204.5(h)(3)(v) – Criterion 5
Contribution 2	Strain imaging in morbid obesity: insights into subclinical ventricular dysfunction	0	8 CFR 204.5(h)(3)(v) – Criterion 5
Contribution 3	Personalized web-based weight loss behavior change program with and without dietitian on-	0	8 CFR 204.5(h)(3)(v) – Criterion 5

Contribution	Core paper	Indep. cites	Supports
	line coaching for adults with overweight and obesity: randomized controlled trial		