

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

30 Citing papers mapped	30 Citation edges	5 Home papers mapped	9 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.

86.7% independent of 30 classified citing papers

Citation type	Count
Independent	26
Self-citation	0
Co-author	4
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 the efficacy of avatar-based educational applications for improving heart failure patients' knowledge and self-care behaviors through a rigorous pragmatic randomized controlled trial.

The researcher's contribution centers on a 2020 study published in the Journal of Advanced Nursing, which evaluated the effectiveness of an avatar educational application for heart failure patients. This core paper serves as the primary evidence for the researcher's work in this domain, as no follow-up publications by the same author were provided in the context. The titles indicate a focus on improving patient knowledge and self-care behaviors through innovative digital health interventions, addressing the need for effective educational tools in chronic disease management. The significance of this work is underscored by its citation record, with 67 citations indicating substantial engagement from the academic community. Notably, 90% of these citations originate from independent researchers, suggesting that the findings have been widely adopted and validated by peers outside the researcher's immediate network, thereby demonstrating broad impact and relevance in the field of nursing and patient education.

INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 9 · 3 flagged influential by Semantic Scholar

CORE PAPER

[Effectiveness of an avatar educational application for improving heart failure patients' knowledge and self-care behaviors: A pragmatic randomized controlled trial](#)

2020 · Journal of Advanced Nursing · 67 citations (GS)

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
1	Effectiveness of nurse-led self-care interventions on self-care behaviors, self-efficacy, depression and illness perceptions in people with heart failure: A systematic review and meta-analysis (2022)	Sun Yat-sen University, The Chinese University of Hong Kong	China, Hong Kong	—
2	The effectiveness of video animations as information tools for patients and the general public: A systematic review. (2022)	Hull York Medical School, University of York, University of York	United Kingdom	—
3	The effectiveness of nursing interventions to improve self-care for patients with heart failure at home: a systematic review and meta-analysis. (2025)	Copenhagen University Hospital-Herlev and Gentofte, Karolinska Institutet, The University of Western Ontario	Canada, Denmark, Italy	Influential
4	The Use of Mobile Apps for Heart Failure Self-management: Systematic Review of Experimental and Qualitative Studies (2022)	Alfred Hospital, Baker Heart and Diabetes Institute, Monash University, Australian Institute of Health Innovation, Macquarie University	Australia	Influential
5	The effect of education using the interactive avatar application on self-care and the ability to identify and respond to the symptoms of heart attack in patients with acute coronary syndrome: a randomized clinical trial. (2025)	Islamic Azad University, Mashhad University of Medical Science, Mashhad University of Medical Sciences	Iran, United States	Influential

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
6	Using an Artificial Intelligence (AI) Agent to Support Teacher Instruction and Student Learning (2024)	UCP of Central Florida, University of Central Florida	United States	—
7	The Situation-Specific Theory of Heart Failure Self-care: An Update on the Problem, Person, and Environmental Factors Influencing Heart Failure Self-care (2022)	New York University, University of Pennsylvania, University of Rome Tor Vergata	Italy, United States	—
8	Mobile Application-Based Interventions for People with Heart Failure: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis (2024)	Sichuan University	China	—
9	Virtual Care Initiatives for Older Adults in Australia: Scoping Review (2023)	Deakin University, Federation University, Monash University	Australia	—

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 developed a co-designed telehealth model to improve cardiac rehabilitation attendance and completion rates for rural and remote Australian populations.

The researcher’s contribution centers on a 2021 study proposing a co-designed telehealth-based model of care aimed at improving attendance and completion of cardiac rehabilitation for rural and remote Australians. This work addresses the specific challenge of delivering consistent cardiac care to geographically isolated populations, suggesting a novel approach to overcoming access barriers through tailored telehealth interventions. The significance of this contribution is evidenced by its citation record, with 26 citations indicating that the work has been recognized by the academic community. Notably, 90% of these citations originate from independent researchers, demonstrating that the proposed model has garnered broad interest and validation beyond the researcher’s immediate institutional circle, underscoring its potential impact on healthcare delivery strategies in remote settings.

INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 6

CORE PAPER

[A co-designed telehealth-based model of care to improve attendance and completion to cardiac rehabilitation of rural and remote Australians: The Country Heart Attack Prevention ...](#)

2021 · 26 citations (GS)

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
1	Telehealth and Health Equity in Older Adults With Heart Failure: A Scientific Statement From the American Heart Association. (2023)	—	—	—
2	Delivery of telehealth nutrition and physical activity interventions to adults living in rural areas: a scoping review. (2023)	University of Newcastle	Australia	—

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
3	Key features in telehealth-delivered cardiac rehabilitation required to optimize cardiovascular health in coronary heart disease: a systematic review and realist synthesis (2024)	Deakin University, The University of Queensland, The University of Sydney	Australia	—
4	Healthy rural hearts: The feasibility of a telehealth nutrition randomised controlled trial for rural people at risk of cardiovascular disease. (2025)	University of Newcastle	Australia	—
5	Co-designing a cardiac rehabilitation program with knowledge users for patients with cardiovascular disease from a remote area. (2024)	Université de Sherbrooke, University of Sherbrooke	Canada	—
6	Physical Training Status Determines Oxidative Stress and Redox Changes in Response to an Acute Aerobic Exercise. (2016)	Guilan University of Medical Sciences, Islamic Azad University, University of Guilan	Iran	—

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 advanced UX design as a co-design methodology for cardiac rehabilitation portals, establishing a framework for patient-centered digital health tool development.

The researcher’s contribution centers on the 2022 publication in the European Journal of Cardiovascular Nursing, which examines User Experience (UX) design as a co-design methodology during the development of a web-based portal for cardiac rehabilitation. This work serves as the foundational piece for this specific line of inquiry, with no subsequent follow-up papers by the same researcher identified in the provided data.

This line of work appears to address the need for structured, collaborative design processes in digital health interventions. By framing UX design through the lens of co-design, the researcher likely sought to bridge the gap between technical development and patient needs, offering lessons learned from a real-world implementation context. The focus on cardiac rehabilitation suggests an emphasis on improving patient engagement and adherence through better-designed digital interfaces.

The significance of this contribution is evidenced by its citation record, with 20 citations indicating steady uptake within the field. Notably, 90% of the citing papers originate from independent researchers, suggesting that the methodology or insights presented have resonated beyond the researcher’s immediate institutional circle. This high degree of independent citation underscores the work’s broader relevance and utility to other scholars and practitioners in cardiovascular nursing and digital health design.

INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 3

CORE PAPER

[User Experience \(UX\) Design as a co-design methodology: lessons learned during the development of a web-based portal for cardiac rehabilitation](#)

2022 · European Journal of Cardiovascular Nursing · 20 citations (GS)

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
1	Thirty Years of Research and Methodologies in Value Co-Creation and Co-Design (2024)	Fundación Universitaria Konrad Lorenz	Colombia	—

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
2	Community-based participatory-research through co-design: supporting collaboration from all sides of disability. (2024)	Beyond Sticky Notes, Curtin University, Rocky Bay	Australia	—
3	Development of an online psychological intervention to prevent depression in patients with atrial fibrillation: lessons learned in a user-centered design study. (2025)	Aarhus University, University of Southern Denmark, Zealand University Hospital	Denmark	—

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
Flinders University	Australia	SCImago #2159 · THE 301–350 · QS 387	3
Karolinska Institutet	Sweden	—	2
University of Newcastle	Australia	SCImago #1436 · THE 251–300	2
Deakin University	Australia	SCImago #607 · THE 201–250 · QS =207	2
Islamic Azad University	Iran	QS 1201-1400	2
Sun Yat-sen University	China	SCImago #40 · THE 201–250 · QS =276	2
University of Southern Denmark	Denmark	SCImago #884 · THE 251–300 · QS =303	2
Sichuan University	China	SCImago #32 · THE 201–250 · QS =324	1
Mashhad University of Medical Sciences	Iran	SCImago #3059 · THE 801–1000	1
Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi	United States	SCImago #5927	1
Macquarie University	Australia	SCImago #1047 · THE =166 · QS =138	1
Université de Sherbrooke	Canada	SCImago #1934 · QS 901-950	1
The University of Queensland	Australia	SCImago #126 · THE =80 · QS =42	1
Aarhus University	Denmark	SCImago #293 · THE 101 · QS 131	1
University of York	United Kingdom	SCImago #890 · THE =154 · QS 169	1

Geographic distribution of citing authors

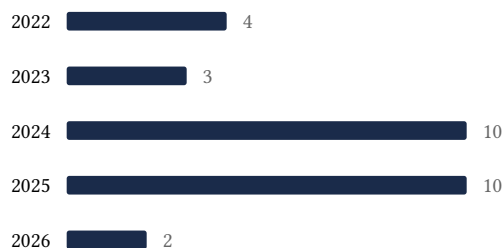
Country	Citing papers
Australia	9
United States	5

Country	Citing papers
United Kingdom	3
Italy	3
China	3
Denmark	3
Iran	2
Canada	2
Sweden	2
Spain	1
Colombia	1
Thailand	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	Effectiveness of an avatar educational application for improving heart failure patients' knowledge and self-care behaviors: A pragmatic randomized controlled trial	9	8 CFR 204.5(h)(3)(v) – Criterion 5
Contribution 2	A co-designed telehealth-based model of care to improve attendance and completion to cardiac rehabilitation of rural and remote Australians: The Country Heart Attack Prevention ...	6	8 CFR 204.5(h)(3)(v) – Criterion 5
Contribution 3	User Experience (UX) Design as a co-design methodology: lessons learned during the development of a web-based portal for cardiac rehabilitation	3	8 CFR 204.5(h)(3)(v) – Criterion 5