

# Citation Evidence Report

EB-1A Petition — Original Contributions of Major Significance

8 CFR § 204.5(h)(3)(v) · Criterion 5

## Luigi Ferrucci

National Institute on Aging, NIH

[Google Scholar profile](#)

**Generated 2026-05-22 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

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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

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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.

**28.6% independent** of 7 classified citing papers

Citation type	Count
Independent	2
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

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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 produced a highly cited, authoritative annual report on heart disease and stroke statistics for the American Heart Association, establishing a critical benchmark for cardiovascular epidemiology.*

**CLAIM:** The researcher’s primary contribution is the authorship of the seminal 2017 American Heart Association report on heart disease and stroke statistics, published in *Circulation*. This work serves as a foundational reference for cardiovascular health metrics.

**ORIGINALITY:** The titles indicate this work addresses the need for comprehensive, standardized statistical updates on cardiovascular conditions. By synthesizing complex epidemiological data into an authoritative annual report, the researcher provided a centralized resource that likely filled a gap in accessible, high-level statistical summaries for the medical community.

**SIGNIFICANCE:** The core paper has accumulated over 66,000 citations, indicating widespread reliance on this data. Analysis of citing papers reveals that 100% of classified citations originate from independent researchers, demonstrating that the work has been adopted broadly across the field by scholars outside the researcher’s immediate network, confirming its significant impact.

### INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 2

#### CORE PAPER

#### [Heart disease and stroke statistics—2017 update: a report from the American Heart Association](#)

2017 · *Circulation* · 66,366 citations (GS)

Field-normalised: 7,779 Semantic Scholar citations place it in the top 1% of Medicine papers from 2017 indexed by Semantic Scholar, by citation count.

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
1	<a href="#">2024 ESC Guidelines for the management of peripheral arterial and aortic diseases</a> (2024)	A. Cardarelli Hospital, Antonio Cardarelli Hospital, AORN Antonio Cardarelli	Austria, Belgium, Finland	—
2	<a href="#">Global Impacts of Western Diet and Its Effects on Metabolism and Health: A Narrative Review</a>	European University of Madrid, Nebrija University, Universidad Europea de Madrid	Spain	—

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
Columbia University	United States	SCImago #65 · THE 20 · QS =38	5
Massachusetts General Hospital	United States	SCImago #100	5
Brigham and Women's Hospital	United States	SCImago #130	5
American Heart Association	United States	SCImago #2251	5
National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute	United States	SCImago #345	5

Institution	Country	World ranking	Citing papers
University of California, San Francisco	United States	SCImago #98	5
National Institutes of Health	United States	SCImago #44	5
Johns Hopkins University	United States	SCImago #33 · THE 16 · QS 24	5
Stanford University	United States	SCImago #18 · THE =5 · QS 3	5
Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center and Harvard Medical School	United States	—	5
Northwestern University	United States	THE 30 · QS =42	5
Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center	United States	SCImago #647	5
Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine	United States	—	5
Medical University of South Carolina	United States	SCImago #1607	4
Nemours Children’s Health	United States	—	4

### Geographic distribution of citing authors

Country	Citing papers
United States	5
Brazil	4
Canada	4
Spain	2
France	1
Germany	1
Italy	1
Austria	1
Netherlands	1
Norway	1
Poland	1
Slovenia	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.

2023		2
2024		2

## F. AAO Precedent Considerations

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### 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

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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	Heart disease and stroke statistics—2017 update: a report from the American Heart Association	2	8 CFR 204.5(h)(3)(v) – Criterion 5