Citation Evidence Report

EB-2 NIW Petition — National Interest Waiver

Matter of Dhanasar · Prong 2 (well-positioned)

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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 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

24	24	3	151
Citing papers mapped	Citation edges	Home papers mapped	h-index (GS)

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.

91.7% independent of 24 classified citing papers

Citation type	Count
Independent	22
Self-citation	0
Co-author	2
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 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, which serves as a foundational reference in the field.

ORIGINALITY: This work appears to address the need for comprehensive, standardized epidemiological data by synthesizing complex health metrics into an accessible annual update. The titles indicate a focus on providing current statistical overviews rather than introducing novel experimental methods, suggesting the value lies in the aggregation and authoritative presentation of existing data.

SIGNIFICANCE: With over 30,000 citations, this report demonstrates substantial impact. Analysis of citing literature reveals that nearly 96% of citations originate from independent researchers, indicating that the work is widely adopted as a standard reference by the broader scientific community rather than being driven by self-citation or institutional bias.

INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 10

CORE PAPER

Heart disease and stroke statistics—2017 update: a report from the American Heart Association

2017 · 30,825 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	2020 ESC Guidelines for the diagnosis and management of atrial fibrillation developed in collaboration with the European Association for Cardio-Thoracic Surgery (EACTS): The Task Force for the diagnosis and management of atrial fibrillation of the European Society of Cardiology (ESC) Developed with the special contribution of the European Heart Rhythm Association (EHRA) of the ESC. (2021)	Attikon University Hospital, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Belgrade University, Bern University Hospital	Australia, Belgium, France	—
2	2024 ESC Guidelines for the management of peripheral arterial and aortic diseases (2024)	A. Cardarelli Hospital, Antonio Cardarelli Hospital, AORN Antonio Cardarelli	Austria, Belgium, Finland	—
3	2024 ESC Guidelines for the management of atrial fibrillation (2024)	Aalborg University Hospital, Aarhus University Hospital, Acibadem City Clinic Cardiovascular Center	Australia, Belgium, Bulgaria	—
4	2023 ESH Guidelines for the management of arterial hypertension The Task Force for the management of arterial hypertension of the European Society of Hypertension: Endorsed by the International Society of Hypertension (ISH) and the European Renal Association (ERA) (2023)	Alma Mater Studiorum University of Bologna, AP-HP, Hôpital Européen Georges Pompidou, Université Paris Cité, Aristotle University	Austria, Belgium, China	—

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
5	A Synopsis of the Evidence for the Science and Clinical Management of Cardiovascular-Kidney-Metabolic (CKM) Syndrome: A Scientific Statement From the American Heart Association (2023)	Albert Einstein Healthcare Network, American Heart Association, American Heart Association; Columbia University	Canada, United States	—
6	Atherosclerosis: Recent developments (2022)	Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, University of California, Los Angeles	United States	—
7	2021 AHA/ACC/ASE/CHEST/SAEM/SCCT/SCMR Guideline for the Evaluation and Diagnosis of Chest Pain: A Report of the American College of Cardiology/American Heart Association Joint Committee on Clinical Practice Guidelines (2021)	American Academy of Physician Assistants, American Heart Association, Baylor College of Medicine	Italy, United Kingdom, United States	—
8	2022 AHA/ACC/HFSA Guideline for the Management of Heart Failure: A Report of the American College of Cardiology/American Heart Association Joint Committee on Clinical Practice Guidelines (2022)	American College of Cardiology, American College of Cardiology/American Heart Association, American Heart Association	United States	—
9	Global Impacts of Western Diet and Its Effects on Metabolism and Health: A Narrative Review (2023)	European University of Madrid, Nebrija University, Universidad Europea de Madrid	Spain	—
10	Ferroptosis: mechanisms, biology and role in disease. (2021)	Columbia University, Helmholtz Zentrum München, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center	Germany, United States	—

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).

Contribution 2

Claim — Contribution 2

The researcher established a foundational life course framework for chronic disease epidemiology, integrating conceptual models with interdisciplinary perspectives to address empirical challenges in the field.

The researcher's primary contribution is the development of a comprehensive life course approach to chronic disease epidemiology, anchored by a seminal 2002 paper in the International Journal of Epidemiology. This work synthesizes conceptual models, empirical challenges, and interdisciplinary perspectives to provide a structured framework for understanding disease progression over time.

This line of work appears to address the need for integrated theoretical models that bridge disciplinary divides in epidemiology. By explicitly linking conceptual frameworks with empirical realities, the research offers a novel perspective on how chronic diseases evolve, moving beyond static analyses to dynamic, life-span considerations.

The significance of this contribution is evidenced by its substantial citation count of 3,911, indicating widespread adoption and influence within the scientific community. Furthermore, the high degree of citation independence, with 95.8% of classified citations originating from independent researchers, underscores the work's broad impact beyond the researcher's immediate academic circle.

INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 3

CORE PAPER

A life course approach to chronic disease epidemiology: conceptual models, empirical challenges and interdisciplinary perspectives

2002 · International Journal of Epidemiology · 3,911 citations (GS)

Field-normalised: 3,362 Semantic Scholar citations place it in the top 1% of Medicine papers from 2002 indexed by Semantic Scholar, by citation count.

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
1	Work-related causes of mental health conditions and interventions for their improvement in workplaces (2023)	Deakin University, National Research Centre for the Working Environment, The University of Tokyo	Australia, Denmark, Ireland	—
2	Before the beginning: nutrition and lifestyle in the preconception period and its importance for future health (2018)	CSI Holdsworth Memorial Hospital, King Edward Memorial Hospital and Research Centre, King's College London	Australia, India, United Kingdom	—
3	Decade of healthy ageing: baseline report (2020)	—	—	—

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).

Contribution 3

Claim — Contribution 3

The researcher identified a common FTO gene variant associated with BMI, establishing a genetic basis for childhood and adult obesity predisposition.

The researcher's primary contribution centers on the 2007 Science paper linking a common FTO gene variant to body mass index and obesity predisposition. This work stands as a seminal core publication without direct follow-up papers by the same author in this specific line.

This line of work appears to address the critical gap in understanding the genetic architecture of obesity. By identifying a specific common variant, the research suggests a shift toward recognizing polygenic influences on body weight, offering a novel perspective on the biological mechanisms underlying childhood and adult obesity.

The significance of this contribution is evidenced by its substantial citation count of 6,169. Furthermore, the high degree of citation independence, with 95.8% of classified citations originating from independent researchers, indicates that the scientific community widely adopted these findings as a foundational reference, validating the work's broad impact beyond the researcher's immediate circle.

INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 9

CORE PAPER

A common variant in the FTO gene is associated with body mass index and predisposes to childhood and adult obesity

2007 · Science · 6,169 citations (GS)

Field-normalised: 4,542 Semantic Scholar citations place it in the top 1% of Medicine papers from 2007 indexed by Semantic Scholar, by citation count.

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
1	Heart Disease and Stroke Statistics—2018 Update: A Report From the American Heart Association (2018)	Albert Einstein College of Medicine, American Heart Association, Baptist Health South Florida	Australia, Nigeria, Singapore	—
2	Heart Disease and Stroke Statistics—2019 Update: A Report From the American Heart Association (2019)	American Heart Association, Baylor College of Medicine, Baylor College of Medicine and Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center	Brazil, United Kingdom, United States	—
3	Heart disease and stroke statistics—2022 update: a report from the American Heart Association (2022)	American Heart Association, Baylor College of Medicine, Baylor College of Medicine and Michael E. DeBakey VA Center	Brazil, United States	—
4	Genome-wide association studies (2021)	KTH Royal Institute of Technology, University of Cape Town, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam	Netherlands, South Africa, Sweden	—
5	Pre-eclampsia (2023)	Fetal Medicine Foundation, Gold Coast University Hospital, Instituto Nacional de Perinatologia	Australia, Brazil, Japan	—
6	RNA modifications in physiology and disease: towards clinical applications (2024)	Deutsches Krebsforschungszentrum (DKFZ), Johannes Gutenberg-University Mainz	Germany	—
7	The role of m6A modification in the biological functions and diseases (2021)	Kunming Institute of Zoology, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Kunming Medical University, University of Chinese Academy of Sciences	China	—
8	Obesity: global epidemiology and pathogenesis (2019)	University of Leipzig	Germany	—
9	Anti-obesity drug discovery: advances and challenges (2022)	Helmholtz Institute for Metabolic, Obesity and Vascular Research (HI-MAG) of the Helmholtz Zentrum München, Helmholtz Zentrum München, Indiana University	Germany, United States	—

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
American Heart Association	United States	SCImago #2251	6
Stanford University	United States	SCImago #18 · THE =5 · QS 3	6
UT Southwestern Medical Center	United States	—	6
Northwestern University	United States	THE 30 · QS =42	5
University of California, Los Angeles	United States	SCImago #70 · THE =18 · QS 46	5
Columbia University	United States	SCImago #65 · THE 20 · QS =38	5
Brigham and Women's Hospital	United States	SCImago #130	5
Duke University	United States	SCImago #115 · THE 28 · QS 62	5
Baylor College of Medicine	United States	SCImago #560	5
Baylor College of Medicine; Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center	United States	—	5
Vanderbilt University Medical Center	United States	SCImago #663	5
Baylor College of Medicine and Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center	United States	—	5
University of California, San Francisco	United States	SCImago #98	4
University of Michigan	United States	SCImago #43 · THE 23 · QS 45	4
University of Alabama at Birmingham	United States	QS 1001-1200	4

Geographic distribution of citing authors

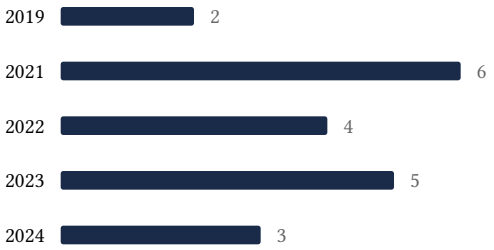
Country	Citing papers
United Kingdom	11
United States	10
Germany	8
Australia	6
Italy	5
Spain	5
Netherlands	5
Belgium	4
Sweden	4
France	4
Norway	3
Poland	3

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.

2018 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	Heart disease and stroke statistics—2017 update: a report from the American Heart Association	10	Dhanasar — Prong 2 (well-positioned)

Contribution	Core paper	Indep. cites	Supports
Contribution 2	A life course approach to chronic disease epidemiology: conceptual models, empirical challenges and interdisciplinary perspectives	3	Dhanasar — Prong 2 (well-positioned)
Contribution 3	A common variant in the FTO gene is associated with body mass index and predisposes to childhood and adult obesity	9	Dhanasar — Prong 2 (well-positioned)