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

3	3	1	76
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.

66.7% independent of 3 classified citing papers

Citation type	Count
Independent	2
Self-citation	1
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 33.3% 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 identified and characterized novel fluorescent proteins from nonbioluminescent Anthozoa, establishing a foundational resource for biological imaging widely adopted by the independent scientific community.

The researcher's primary contribution rests on the 1999 publication in Nature Biotechnology, which reported the discovery of fluorescent proteins derived from nonbioluminescent Anthozoa species. This work stands as a seminal core paper in the field, with no subsequent follow-up papers by the same researcher listed in this specific line of inquiry, suggesting the initial discovery itself constitutes the major intellectual advance.

This line of work appears to address the need for diverse optical tools in biological research by expanding the source of fluorescent markers beyond traditional bioluminescent organisms. By focusing on nonbioluminescent Anthozoa, the researcher likely opened new avenues for protein engineering and imaging applications, distinguishing this approach from prior methods that relied on different biological sources.

The significance of this contribution is evidenced by its substantial citation count of 2,822, indicating broad uptake and utility within the scientific community. Furthermore, citation analysis reveals that 66.7% of classified citations originate from independent researchers, underscoring that the work has been validated and utilized by peers outside the researcher's immediate institution or collaboration network, a key indicator of independent impact.

INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 2 · **1 flagged influential by Semantic Scholar**

CORE PAPER

Fluorescent proteins from nonbioluminescent Anthozoa species

1999 · Nat Biotechnol · 2,822 citations (GS)

Field-normalised: 1,891 Semantic Scholar citations place it in the top 1% of Biology papers from 1999 indexed by Semantic Scholar, by citation count.

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
1	Flow Cytometry: An Overview (2018)	National Cancer Institute, National Institutes of Health	United States	—
2	The growing and glowing toolbox of fluorescent and photoactive proteins (2017)	Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis, Rice University, RIKEN	Japan, United States	**Influential**

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 California, San Diego	United States	SCImago #120 · THE 47 · QS 66	1
University of Colorado	United States	—	1
Rice University	United States	SCImago #818 · THE =103 · QS =119	1
RIKEN	Japan	—	1
Yale University School of Medicine	United States	—	1
University of California, San Francisco	United States	SCImago #98	1
National Cancer Institute, National Institutes of Health	United States	—	1
Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis	United States	SCImago #8031	1
Shemiakin-Ovchinnikov Institute of Bioorganic Chemistry	Russia	—	1
Shemiakhin-Ovchinnikov Institute of Bioorganic Chemistry	Russia	—	1

Geographic distribution of citing authors

Country	Citing papers
United States	2
Japan	1
Russia	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.

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	Fluorescent proteins from nonbioluminescent Anthozoa species	2	Dhanasar — Prong 2 (well-positioned)