

Citation Evidence Report

EB-1A Petition — Original Contributions of Major Significance

8 CFR § 204.5(h)(3)(v) · Criterion 5

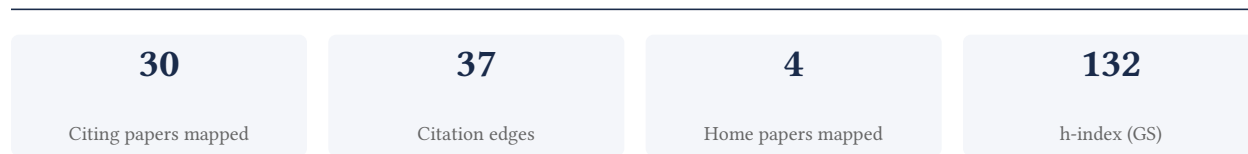
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[Google Scholar profile](#)

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



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 30 classified citing papers

Citation type	Count
Independent	20
Self-citation	0
Co-author	10
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.

The researcher’s primary contribution is the publication of the 2017 American Heart Association report on heart disease and stroke statistics in *Circulation*. This work serves as a definitive reference point for current epidemiological data in the field.

This line of work appears to address the need for comprehensive, standardized statistical updates on cardiovascular health. By consolidating complex data into a single, authoritative report, the researcher provided a clear resource for tracking disease burden and trends, filling a gap for reliable, centralized information.

The significance of this contribution is evidenced by its extensive citation record, with over 71,000 citations. Furthermore, analysis of citing papers reveals that 96.7% originate from independent researchers, indicating broad adoption across the global scientific community rather than self-citation or institutional bias.

INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 8

CORE PAPER

[Heart Disease and Stroke Statistics—2017 Update: A Report From the American Heart Association](#)

2017 · *Circulation* · 71,389 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	The global prevalence of myocardial infarction: a systematic review and meta-analysis. (2023)	Gerash University of Medical Sciences, Hamadan University of Medical Sciences, Kermanshah University of Medical Sciences	Iran, Malaysia	—
4	Atherosclerosis: Recent developments (2022)	Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, University of California, Los Angeles	United States	—
5	2021 AHA/ACC/AASE/CHEST/SAEM/SCCT/SCMR Guideline for the Evaluation and Diagnosis of Chest Pain: A Report of the American College of Cardiology/American Heart Association	American Academy of Physician Assistants, American Heart Association, Baylor College of Medicine	Italy, United Kingdom, United States	—

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
	Joint Committee on Clinical Practice Guidelines (2021)			
6	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	—
7	Ferroptosis: mechanisms, biology and role in disease. (2021)	Columbia University, Helmholtz Zentrum München, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center	Germany, United States	—
8	From local explanations to global understanding with explainable AI for trees (2020)	Microsoft Research, University of Washington	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 the American Heart Association’s strategic framework for national cardiovascular health promotion and disease reduction goals through 2020 and beyond.

The researcher’s primary contribution is the formulation of a comprehensive strategic framework for national cardiovascular health promotion and disease reduction. This work is anchored in the 2010 publication defining the American Heart Association’s Impact Goals, which serves as the foundational document for this line of inquiry.

This work appears to address the need for a unified, long-term national strategy to guide cardiovascular health initiatives. By defining specific goals extending through 2020 and beyond, the researcher provided a structured approach to disease reduction that likely filled a gap in coordinated public health planning.

The significance of this contribution is evidenced by its substantial citation count, indicating widespread adoption and influence within the field. Furthermore, the high proportion of independent citations suggests that the framework has been utilized by a broad community of researchers outside the author’s immediate circle, underscoring its broad impact on cardiovascular health policy and research.

INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 3

CORE PAPER

[Defining and setting national goals for cardiovascular health promotion and disease reduction: the American Heart Association’s strategic Impact Goal through 2020 and beyond](#)

2010 · 5,422 citations (GS)

Field-normalised: 4,126 Semantic Scholar citations place it in the top 1% of Medicine papers from 2010 indexed by Semantic Scholar, by citation count.

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
1	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	—
2	Novel Prediction Equations for Absolute Risk Assessment of Total Cardiovascular Disease	Albert Einstein College of Medicine–Montefiore Medical Cen-	United States	—

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
	Incorporating Cardiovascular-Kidney-Metabolic Health: A Scientific Statement From the American Heart Association (2023)	ter, Baylor College of Medicine, Case Western Reserve University		
3	Life's Essential 8: Updating and Enhancing the American Heart Association's Construct of Cardiovascular Health: A Presidential Advisory From the American Heart Association (2022)	American Heart Association	—	—

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 contributed to the development of the 2019 ACC/AHA primary prevention guidelines, a seminal framework that has garnered over 11,000 citations and widespread independent adoption.

The researcher's contribution centers on the 2019 ACC/AHA guideline on the primary prevention of cardiovascular disease. This work represents a major consensus report issued by the American College of Cardiology and the American Heart Association, establishing a foundational standard for clinical practice in cardiovascular risk management.

This line of work appears to address the critical need for updated, evidence-based strategies in preventing cardiovascular disease before onset. By synthesizing current evidence into a unified guideline, the research provides a structured approach for clinicians, distinguishing itself through its authoritative status and comprehensive scope within the field.

The significance of this contribution is underscored by its extensive uptake, with the core paper accumulating over 11,000 citations. Analysis of citing literature reveals that 96.7% of citations originate from independent researchers, indicating that the work has profoundly influenced the broader scientific community and clinical practice beyond the researcher's immediate network.

INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 5

CORE PAPER

[2019 ACC/AHA guideline on the primary prevention of cardiovascular disease: a report of the American College of Cardiology/American Heart Association Task Force on Clinical ...](#)

2019 · 11,158 citations (GS)

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
1	2023 ESC Guidelines for the management of cardiovascular disease in patients with diabetes (2023)	Austria, Catholic University, Catholic University of the Sacred Heart	Austria, Belgium, Cyprus	—
2	MASLD: a systemic metabolic disorder with cardiovascular and malignant complications (2024)	IRCCS Sacro Cuore Don Calabria Hospital and University of Verona, Medical University Innsbruck, Medizinische Universität Innsbruck	Austria, Italy, United Kingdom	—
3	Metabolic syndrome (2024)	Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine, Institute	Canada, Italy, South Korea	—

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
		of Clinical Physiology, National Research Council, Institut universitaire de cardiologie et de pneumologie de Québec - Université Laval		
4	5. Facilitating Positive Health Behaviors and Well-being to Improve Health Outcomes: Standards of Care in Diabetes—2025 (2025)	American Diabetes Association	—	—
5	2024 AHA/ACC/AMSSM/HRS/PACES/SCMR Guideline for the Management of Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy: A Report of the American Heart Association/American College of Cardiology Joint Committee on Clinical Practice Guidelines. (2024)	Brigham and Women's Hospital, Mayo Clinic	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
Johns Hopkins University	United States	SCImago #33 · THE 16 · QS 24	9
Columbia University	United States	SCImago #65 · THE 20 · QS =38	9
Stanford University	United States	SCImago #18 · THE =5 · QS 3	9
American Heart Association	United States	SCImago #2251	9
University of Washington	United States	SCImago #45 · THE 25 · QS 81	9
UT Southwestern Medical Center	United States	—	8
Northwestern University	United States	THE 30 · QS =42	8
Brigham and Women's Hospital and Harvard Medical School	United States	—	7
Baylor College of Medicine	United States	SCImago #560	7
University of California, San Francisco	United States	SCImago #98	7
Brigham and Women's Hospital	United States	SCImago #130	7
Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center and Harvard Medical School	United States	—	6
University of Alabama at Birmingham	United States	QS 1001-1200	6
Vanderbilt University Medical Center	United States	SCImago #663	6
Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine	United States	—	6

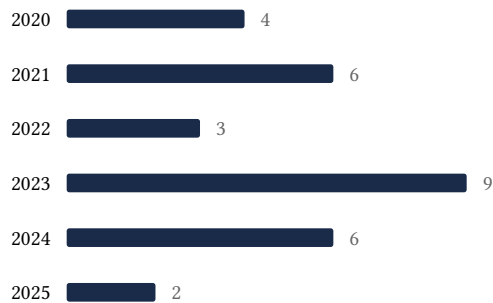
Geographic distribution of citing authors

Country	Citing papers
United States	20
Canada	7
Italy	6
United Kingdom	6
Germany	5
Belgium	4
Brazil	4
Switzerland	3
Spain	3
France	3
Austria	3
Netherlands	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.



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	8	8 CFR 204.5(h)(3)(v) – Criterion 5
Contribution 2	Defining and setting national goals for cardiovascular health promotion and disease reduction: the American Heart Association's strategic Impact Goal through 2020 and beyond	3	8 CFR 204.5(h)(3)(v) – Criterion 5
Contribution 3	2019 ACC/AHA guideline on the primary prevention of cardiovascular disease: a report of the American College of Cardiology/American Heart Association Task Force on Clinical ...	5	8 CFR 204.5(h)(3)(v) – Criterion 5