

Citation Evidence Report

EB-1A Petition – Original Contributions of Major Significance

8 CFR § 204.5(h)(3)(v) · Criterion 5

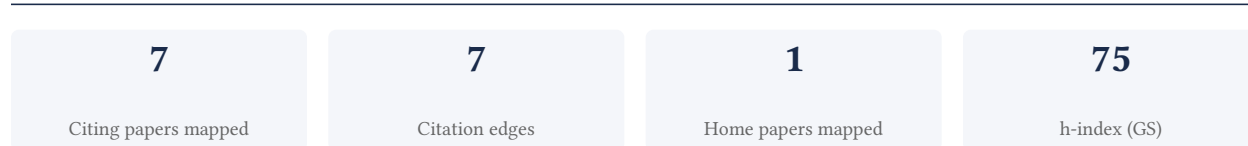
Ester Cerdeira Sabino

Full Professor Department of Pathology, Faculdade de Medicina da Universidade de Sao Paulo

[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.

85.7% independent of 7 classified citing papers

Citation type	Count
Independent	6
Self-citation	0
Co-author	1
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 provided seminal genomic and epidemiological insights into the P.1 SARS-CoV-2 lineage in Manaus, Brazil, establishing a critical reference for understanding viral evolution and transmission dynamics.

CLAIM: The researcher's primary contribution is the comprehensive analysis of the P.1 SARS-CoV-2 lineage in Manaus, Brazil, detailed in a 2021 paper published in Science. This work serves as the foundational reference for this line of inquiry, with no subsequent follow-up papers by the same researcher listed in the provided data.

ORIGINALITY: The titles indicate that this work addressed the urgent need to characterize the genomic features and epidemiological impact of the emerging P.1 variant. By integrating genomics with epidemiology, the research appears to have filled a critical gap in understanding how this specific lineage spread and evolved within the Brazilian population during the pandemic.

SIGNIFICANCE: The core paper has been cited 1,824 times, indicating substantial uptake by the scientific community. Furthermore, citation analysis reveals that 85.7% of classified citations originate from independent researchers, suggesting that the work has influenced a broad and diverse range of scholars beyond the researcher's immediate institutional or collaborative network.

INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 6

CORE PAPER

[Genomics and epidemiology of the P.1 SARS-CoV-2 lineage in Manaus, Brazil](#)

2021 · Science · 1,824 citations (GS)

Field-normalised: 1,267 Semantic Scholar citations place it in the top 1% of Environmental Science papers from 2021 indexed by Semantic Scholar, by citation count.

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
1	The evolution of SARS-CoV-2 (2023)	European Commission, Joint Research Centre (JRC), Friedrich-Loeffler-Institut, University of Oxford	Germany, Italy, United Kingdom	—
2	Mechanisms of SARS-CoV-2 entry into cells (2021)	Florida Atlantic University, Scripps Research	United States	—
3	SARS-CoV-2 variants, spike mutations and immune escape (2021)	MRC-University of Glasgow Centre for Virus Research, University of Cambridge, University of Edinburgh	United Kingdom	—
4	Airborne transmission of respiratory viruses (2021)	Israel Institute of Technology, National Sun Yat-sen University, Scripps Institution of Oceanography, University of California San Diego	Israel, Republic of China, United States	—
5	Rapid epidemic expansion of the SARS-CoV-2 Omicron variant in southern Africa (2022)	Botswana Harvard, Lancet Laboratories, National Institute for Communicable Diseases	Botswana, Canada, South Africa	—
6	Progress of the COVID-19 vaccine effort: viruses, vaccines and variants versus efficacy, effectiveness and escape (2021)	Imperial College London	United Kingdom	—

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
University of Oxford	United Kingdom	SCImago #26 · THE 1 · QS 4	2
Imperial College London	United Kingdom	SCImago #69 · THE 8 · QS 2	2
Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health	United States	—	1
University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine	United States	—	1
University of Colorado	United States	—	1
Florida Atlantic University	United States	SCImago #2973 · THE 801–1000	1
University of Glasgow	United Kingdom	SCImago #351 · THE 84 · QS 79	1
University of Edinburgh	United Kingdom	SCImago #182 · THE 29 · QS 34	1
University of KwaZulu-Natal	South Africa	SCImago #1835 · THE 501–600 · QS =558	1
Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais	Brazil	SCImago #739	1
National Institute for Communicable Diseases	South Africa	—	1
University of Guelph	Canada	SCImago #1566 · THE 401–500 · QS =504	1
Virginia Tech	United States	—	1
Scripps Institution of Oceanography, University of California San Diego	United States	—	1
University of Campinas (UNICAMP)	Brazil	THE 351–400	1

Geographic distribution of citing authors

Country	Citing papers
United Kingdom	4
United States	3
Canada	1
Germany	1
Israel	1
Botswana	1
Republic of China	1
South Africa	1
Italy	1
Brazil	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.

2021  5

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	Genomics and epidemiology of the P.1 SARS-CoV-2 lineage in Manaus, Brazil	6	8 CFR 204.5(h)(3)(v) – Criterion 5