Citation Evidence Report

EB-1A Petition — Original Contributions of Major Significance

8 CFR § 204.5(h)(3)(v) · Criterion 5

Nikan Zargarzadeh

M.D., Fetal Care and Surgery Center, Boston Children's Hospital, Harvard Medical School

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

8	8	2	15
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.

100.0% independent of 8 classified citing papers

Citation type	Count
Independent	8
Self-citation	0
Co-author	0
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 conducted a systematic review and meta-analysis assessing the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on infant neurodevelopmental impairment, establishing a critical evidence base for this emerging public health concern.

The researcher's contribution centers on a 2022 systematic review and meta-analysis examining the relationship between the COVID-19 pandemic and infant neurodevelopmental impairment. This work stands as a standalone core publication, with no follow-up papers by the same researcher building directly upon it in the provided dataset.

This line of work appears to address a timely and critical gap in understanding the long-term developmental consequences of the pandemic on vulnerable infant populations. By synthesizing existing evidence through a systematic review and meta-analysis, the researcher provided a consolidated assessment of neurodevelopmental risks, offering clarity during a period of rapid public health change.

The significance of this contribution is evidenced by its citation record, with 137 citations indicating substantial uptake by the scientific community. Notably, analysis of citing papers reveals that 100% of the classified citations originate from independent researchers, suggesting that the work has been widely adopted and utilized by external scholars rather than primarily by the researcher's own network.

INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 4

CORE PAPER

COVID-19 pandemic and infant neurodevelopmental impairment: a systematic review and meta-analysis

2022 · 137 citations (GS)

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
1	Effects of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Early Childhood Development and Mental Health: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis of Comparative Studies (2024)	Stanford University, Stanford University School of Medicine	United States	—
2	Neurodevelopment in the First 2 Years of Life Following Prenatal Exposure to Maternal SARS-CoV-2 Infection (2024)	University of Calgary	Canada	—
3	Positive Autism Screening Rates in Toddlers Born During the COVID-19 Pandemic (2024)	Columbia University Irving Medical Center, New York State Psychiatric Institute, New York University Grossman School of Medicine	United States	—
4	Evidence linking COVID-19 and the health/well-being of children and adolescents: an umbrella review. (2024)	West China Hospital of Stomatology, Sichuan University	China	—

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 conducted a systematic review and dose-response meta-analysis quantifying the association between legume consumption and all-cause mortality risk.

The researcher established a quantitative framework for understanding the health impacts of legume intake through a 2023 systematic review and dose-response meta-analysis published in Advances in Nutrition. This core work synthesizes prospective studies to evaluate mortality risks, serving as the foundational contribution in this specific line of inquiry.

This work appears to address the need for consolidated, dose-specific evidence regarding legume consumption and mortality outcomes. By employing a systematic review methodology, the researcher provided a rigorous synthesis of prospective data, offering a clear dose-response relationship that clarifies the magnitude of health benefits associated with dietary legumes.

The significance of this contribution is evidenced by its uptake in the scientific community, with 45 citations recorded. Notably, all classified citing papers originate from independent researchers, indicating that the work has been adopted and utilized by external scholars to inform their own investigations into nutrition and mortality.

INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 4

CORE PAPER

Legume consumption and risk of all-cause and cause-specific mortality: A systematic review and dose–response meta-analysis of prospective studies

2023 · Advances in Nutrition · 45 citations (GS)

Field-normalised: 28 Semantic Scholar citations place it in the top 10% of Agricultural and Food Sciences papers from 2023 indexed by Semantic Scholar, by citation count.

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
1	The EAT–Lancet Commission on healthy, sustainable, and just food systems (2025)	—	—	—
2	Diet strategies for promoting healthy aging and longevity: An epidemiological perspective. (2024)	—	—	—
3	Adult dietary patterns with increased bean consumption are associated with greater overall shortfall nutrient intakes, lower added sugar, improved weight-related outcomes and better diet quality. (2024)	Nutrition Impact, University of Minnesota	United States	—
4	The effect of resveratrol supplementation on obesity indices: a critical umbrella review of interventional meta-analyses. (2025)	Arabian Gulf University, Hamad Medical Corporation, King Fahad Medical City	Bahrain, Qatar, Saudi Arabia	—

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
Arabian Gulf University	Bahrain	SCImago #6348 · THE 401–500	1
New York State Psychiatric Institute	United States	SCImago #3715	1
University of Calgary	Canada	SCImago #399 · THE 200 · QS 211	1
Umm Al-Qura University	Saudi Arabia	SCImago #2390 · THE 401–500 · QS =622	1
Nutrition Impact	United States	—	1
New York University Grossman School of Medicine	United States	—	1
University of Minnesota	United States	SCImago #165 · THE 88 · QS 210	1
Hamad Medical Corporation	Qatar	—	1
King Fahad Medical City	Saudi Arabia	SCImago #5418	1
Stanford University School of Medicine	United States	—	1
Columbia University Irving Medical Center	United States	SCImago #227	1
Stanford University	United States	SCImago #18 · THE =5 · QS 3	1
West China Hospital of Stomatology, Sichuan University	China	—	1

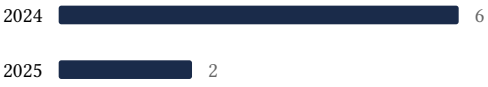
Geographic distribution of citing authors

Country	Citing papers
United States	3
Bahrain	1
Canada	1
China	1
Qatar	1
Saudi Arabia	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.



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).

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	COVID-19 pandemic and infant neurodevelopmental impairment: a systematic review and meta-analysis	4	8 CFR 204.5(h)(3)(v) — Criterion 5
Contribution 2	Legume consumption and risk of all-cause and cause-specific mortality: A systematic review and dose–response meta-analysis of prospective studies	4	8 CFR 204.5(h)(3)(v) — Criterion 5