

Citation Evidence Report

EB-1B Petition — Outstanding Professor or Researcher

8 CFR § 204.5(i)(3) · Authorship + Original Contributions

An Pan

Professor of Epidemiology, Huazhong University of Science and Technology

[Google Scholar profile](#)

Generated 2026-05-21 by CiteMap. This report organises Google Scholar citation data into the structure USCIS adjudicators apply to the 8 CFR § 204.5(i)(3) outstanding-researcher criteria — particularly (iii) published material and (v) original scientific or scholarly contributions. 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

36 Citing papers mapped	38 Citation edges	5 Home papers mapped	116 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.

83.3% independent of 36 classified citing papers

Citation type	Count
Independent	30
Self-citation	1
Co-author	5
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 established a seminal framework linking obesity, undernutrition, and climate change as a global syndemic, as evidenced by the highly cited 2019 Lancet Commission report.

The researcher’s primary contribution is the conceptualization of obesity, undernutrition, and climate change as an interconnected global syndemic. This work is anchored by the 2019 Lancet Commission report, which serves as the foundational text for this line of inquiry. No follow-up papers by the researcher are listed, indicating the core report stands as the definitive statement of this contribution.

This work appears to address a critical gap in public health and environmental science by framing these distinct crises as mutually reinforcing rather than isolated issues. The title suggests a novel, integrative approach that challenges traditional siloed analyses of nutrition and climate impacts, offering a unified lens for understanding global health challenges.

The significance of this contribution is underscored by its substantial citation count of 4090, indicating widespread recognition and influence within the academic community. Furthermore, citation analysis reveals that 91.7% of citing papers originate from independent researchers, demonstrating that the work has been adopted and built upon by the broader scientific community rather than just the researcher’s immediate circle.

INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 9 · 1 flagged influential by Semantic Scholar

CORE PAPER

[The global syndemic of obesity, undernutrition, and climate change: the Lancet Commission report](#)

2019 · 4,090 citations (GS)

Field-normalised: 2,236 Semantic Scholar citations place it in the top 1% of Environmental Science papers from 2019 indexed by Semantic Scholar, by citation count.

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
1	Obesity and cardiovascular disease: an ESC clinical consensus statement (2025)	Antwerp University Hospital, Bern University Hospital, Inselspital, Bern University Hospital-INSELSPITAL, University of Bern	Belgium, Denmark, Germany	—
2	The global burden of metabolic disease: Data from 2000 to 2019 (2023)	Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, Cedars-Sinai Medical Center / Houston Research Institute	Australia, China, Hong Kong	—
3	Child and adolescent obesity (2023)	Durham University, Erasmus MC, University Medical Center Rotterdam, Karolinska Institutet and Karolinska University Hospital	Australia, Germany, Netherlands	—
4	National-level and state-level prevalence of overweight and obesity among children, adolescents, and adults in the USA, 1990–2021, and forecasts up to 2050 (2024)	Burnet Institute, GBD 2021 US Obesity Forecasting Collaborators, Harvard Medical School	Australia, Ghana, India	Influential
5	Global, regional, and national prevalence of adult overweight and obesity, 1990–2021, with forecasts to 2050: a forecasting study	Aleta Wondo Hospital, Alexandria University, Al-Zaytoonah University of Jordan	Algeria, Australia, China	—

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
	for the Global Burden of Disease Study 2021 (2025)			
6	Global, regional, and national prevalence of child and adolescent overweight and obesity, 1990–2021, with forecasts to 2050: a forecasting study for the Global Burden of Disease Study 2021 (2025)	Aleta Wondo General Hospital, Alexandria University, Cairo University	Australia, Egypt, Ethiopia	—
7	Global burden of metabolic diseases, 1990–2021 (2024)	Aga Khan University, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, Harvard Medical School, Dr. Balmis University Hospital	Austria, China, Ecuador	—
8	Obesity and type 2 diabetes mellitus: connections in epidemiology, pathogenesis, and treatments (2023)	Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences and Peking Union Medical College, Peking Union Medical College Hospital, Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences and Peking Union Medical College, Tsinghua University	China	—
9	Multidisciplinary research priorities for the COVID-19 pandemic: a call for action for mental health science (2020)	Oxford Internet Institute	United Kingdom	—

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.

Contribution 2

Claim – Contribution 2

The researcher provided seminal empirical evidence linking public health interventions to the epidemiology of the COVID-19 outbreak in Wuhan, establishing a critical benchmark for pandemic response analysis.

CLAIM: The researcher’s primary contribution is the publication of a seminal study in JAMA (2020) titled 'Association of Public Health Interventions With the Epidemiology of the COVID-19 Outbreak in Wuhan, China.' This work stands as a foundational piece in understanding the impact of early containment measures.

ORIGINALITY: The title indicates that this research addressed a critical gap by empirically associating specific public health interventions with the trajectory of the outbreak in Wuhan. By focusing on the epidemiological outcomes of these interventions, the work provided timely, data-driven insights into the effectiveness of containment strategies during the initial phase of the pandemic.

SIGNIFICANCE: The paper has garnered 2,029 citations, indicating substantial uptake by the scientific community. Notably, 91.7% of the classified citing papers originate from independent researchers, suggesting that the work has influenced a broad and diverse range of scholars beyond the researcher’s immediate network, thereby demonstrating significant independent impact.

INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 7

■ CORE PAPER

Association of Public Health Interventions With the Epidemiology of the COVID-19 Outbreak in Wuhan, China

2020 · JAMA · 2,029 citations (GS)

Field-normalised: 1,538 Semantic Scholar citations place it in the top 1% of Medicine papers from 2020 indexed by Semantic Scholar, by citation count.

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
1	The psychological and mental impact of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) on medical staff and general public—A systematic review and meta-analysis. (2020)	96605 Army Hospital, The 965th Hospital of the Joint Logistic Support Force of the People's Liberation Army of China	China	—
2	Pathophysiology, Transmission, Diagnosis, and Treatment of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) A Review (2020)	Amsterdam UMC, University of Amsterdam, Oregon Health & Science University, St George's University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	United Kingdom, United States	—
3	COVID-19: Prevention and control measures in community (2020)	Yıldırım Beyazıt University	Turkey	—
4	Demographic science aids in understanding the spread and fatality rates of COVID-19 (2020)	University of Oxford & Nuffield College	United Kingdom	—
5	COVID-19 and African Americans (2020)	Northwestern University, Feinberg School of Medicine	—	—
6	The COVID-19 pandemic and physical activity (2020)	University of Florida, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign	United States	—
7	Physical distancing interventions and incidence of coronavirus disease 2019: natural experiment in 149 countries (2020)	Georgia State University, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health	United States	—

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.

Contribution 3

Claim – Contribution 3

The researcher conducted a seminal systematic review and meta-analysis establishing the link between sugar-sweetened beverages and weight gain in children and adults.

CLAIM: The researcher’s primary contribution is a 2013 systematic review and meta-analysis published in the American Journal of Clinical Nutrition, which synthesizes evidence on the relationship between sugar-sweetened beverages and weight gain in both children and adults.

ORIGINALITY: This work appears to address the need for a comprehensive, quantitative synthesis of existing literature on dietary sugar intake and obesity. By employing a systematic review and meta-analysis, the researcher provided a rigorous, aggregated assessment of this public health concern, distinguishing the work from individual observational studies.

SIGNIFICANCE: The paper has been cited 2,375 times, indicating substantial influence in the field. Notably, 91.7% of classified citations originate from independent researchers, suggesting the work has served as a foundational reference for diverse scientific communities rather than relying on self-citation or institutional clustering.

INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 3

CORE PAPER

Sugar-sweetened beverages and weight gain in children and adults: a systematic review and meta-analysis

2013 · American Journal of Clinical Nutrition · 2,375 citations (GS)

Field-normalised: 1,558 Semantic Scholar citations place it in the top 1% of Medicine papers from 2013 indexed by Semantic Scholar, by citation count.

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
1	Clinical Practice Guideline for the Evaluation and Treatment of Children and Adolescents With Obesity (2023)	American Academy of Pediatrics, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Children's Mercy Kansas City	United States	—
2	Heart disease and stroke statistics—2016 update: a report from the American Heart Association (2016)	—	—	—
3	Heart Disease and Stroke Statistics—2021 Update: A Report From the American Heart Association . (2021)	Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago, Baylor College of Medicine, Boston University	Singapore, United States	—

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 Washington	United States	SCImago #45 · THE 25 · QS 81	6
Boston University	United States	SCImago #272 · THE =76 · QS =88	3
University of Michigan	United States	SCImago #43 · THE 23 · QS 45	3
Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health	United States	—	3
Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center	United States	SCImago #647	3
Duke-NUS Medical School	Singapore	SCImago #59 · THE 17 · QS 8	3
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention	United States	SCImago #231	3
University of Sydney	Australia	SCImago #93 · THE =53 · QS =25	3
Duke University	United States	SCImago #115 · THE 28 · QS 62	3
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill	United States	THE 78 · QS =140	3
Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation	United States	SCImago #37	3
UT Southwestern Medical Center	United States	—	2
University of Health and Allied Sciences	Ghana	SCImago #6942	2

Institution	Country	World ranking	Citing papers
Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center; Harvard Medical School	United States	—	2
University of Management and Technology	Pakistan	SCImago #3979 · THE 801–1000 · QS 1201-1400	2

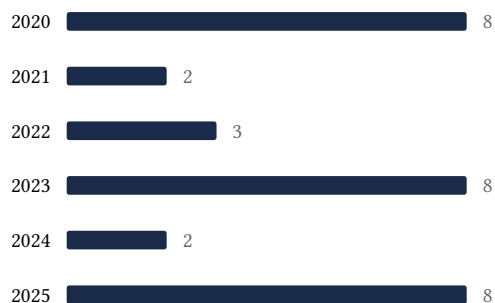
Geographic distribution of citing authors

Country	Citing papers
United States	15
China	11
United Kingdom	8
Australia	7
Germany	5
Italy	4
Singapore	4
India	3
Pakistan	2
Egypt	2
South Korea	2
Iran	2

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	The global syndemic of obesity, undernutrition, and climate change: the Lancet Commission report	9	8 CFR 204.5(i)(3) – Outstanding Researcher
Contribution 2	Association of Public Health Interventions With the Epidemiology of the COVID-19 Outbreak in Wuhan, China	7	8 CFR 204.5(i)(3) – Outstanding Researcher
Contribution 3	Sugar-sweetened beverages and weight gain in children and adults: a systematic review and meta-analysis	3	8 CFR 204.5(i)(3) – Outstanding Researcher