

# Citation Evidence Report

EB-2 NIW Petition — National Interest Waiver

Matter of Dhanasar · Prong 2 (well-positioned)

**Emily C Soriano, PhD**

Scripps Health

[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

<b>39</b> Citing papers mapped	<b>39</b> Citation edges	<b>5</b> Home papers mapped	<b>18</b> 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.

**97.4% independent** of 39 classified citing papers

Citation type	Count
Independent	38
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 established a randomized evidence base for using gratitude interventions to mitigate death-related fear of recurrence in breast cancer survivors.*

The researcher’s contribution centers on a seminal 2016 study published in *Health Psychology*, which investigated the effects of a randomized gratitude intervention on death-related fear of recurrence in breast cancer survivors. This work stands as the primary anchor for this line of inquiry, with no subsequent follow-up papers by the same author identified in the provided data.

This line of work appears to address a critical gap in psychosocial oncology by testing a specific, randomized behavioral intervention for a distinct psychological burden—fear of recurrence linked to mortality—rather than general distress. The use of a randomized design suggests an effort to establish causal efficacy for gratitude practices in this clinical context.

The significance of this contribution is underscored by its citation record, with 168 citations indicating substantial uptake in the field. Notably, 100% of the classified citing papers originate from independent researchers, demonstrating that the work has resonated broadly across the scientific community beyond the researcher’s immediate institutional or collaborative network.

INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 7 · 1 flagged influential by Semantic Scholar

#### CORE PAPER

### [Effects of a Randomized Gratitude Intervention on Death-Related Fear of Recurrence in Breast Cancer Survivors](#)

2016 · *Health Psychology* · 168 citations (GS)

Field-normalised: 101 Semantic Scholar citations place it in the top 5% of Medicine papers from 2016 indexed by Semantic Scholar, by citation count.

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
1	<a href="#">Effect of Psychological Intervention on Fear of Cancer Recurrence: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis.</a> (2019)	Aarhus University	Denmark	—
2	<a href="#">Anxiety and Depression in Cancer Survivors</a> (2017)	Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center	United States	—
3	<a href="#">Health anxiety and illness-related fears across diverse chronic illnesses: A systematic review on conceptualization, measurement, prevalence, course, and correlates.</a> (2020)	Technical University of Munich	Germany	—
4	<a href="#">Gratitude and health: An updated review</a> (2019)	Open University	Netherlands	Influential
5	<a href="#">The effect of psychological interventions on fear of cancer recurrence in breast cancer survivors: A systematic review and meta-analysis.</a> (2022)	National University of Singapore, The University of Tokyo	Japan, Singapore	—
6	<a href="#">Mind-body interventions for fear of cancer recurrence: A systematic review and meta-analysis.</a> (2018)	Chungnam National University, Massachusetts General Hospital, Harvard Medical School	South Korea, United States	—
7	<a href="#">The assessment of gratitude.</a> (2003)	University of California, Davis	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 2

### Claim – Contribution 2

*The researcher established a foundational link between fear of cancer recurrence and healthcare utilization in early-stage breast cancer survivors, a seminal contribution widely adopted by independent scholars.*

The researcher’s core contribution centers on the 2018 publication in J Cancer Surviv, which assesses the relationship between fear of cancer recurrence and healthcare utilization in early-stage breast cancer survivors. This work stands as a singular, pivotal piece in this specific line of inquiry, with no follow-up papers by the same author extending this particular dataset or analysis.

This line of work appears to address a critical gap in understanding how psychological distress, specifically fear of recurrence, translates into tangible healthcare behaviors among survivors. By focusing on early-stage breast cancer, the research suggests a nuanced exploration of post-treatment care dynamics that had not been comprehensively mapped in this specific population prior to this publication.

The significance of this contribution is underscored by its citation record, with 79 citations indicating substantial engagement within the field. Notably, 100% of the classified citing papers originate from independent researchers, demonstrating that the work has been widely adopted and utilized by the broader scientific community beyond the researcher’s immediate circle, validating its independent impact and relevance.

INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 10 · 2 flagged influential by Semantic Scholar

#### CORE PAPER

### [Assessing the relationship between fear of cancer recurrence and health care utilization in early-stage breast cancer survivors](#)

2018 · J Cancer Surviv · 79 citations (GS)

Field-normalised: 55 Semantic Scholar citations place it in the top 10% of Medicine papers from 2018 indexed by Semantic Scholar, by citation count.

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
1	<a href="#">What is the prevalence of fear of cancer recurrence in cancer survivors and patients? A systematic review and individual participant data meta-analysis.</a> (2022)	Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center, Deakin University, Flinders University	Australia, Canada, China	—
2	<a href="#">A systematic review of fear of cancer recurrence related healthcare use and intervention cost-effectiveness.</a> (2021)	University of Sydney	Australia	Influential
3	<a href="#">Fear of Cancer Recurrence or Progression: What Is It and What Can We Do About It?</a> (2022)	Instituto Unity de Ensino e Pesquisa, University of California San Francisco	Brazil	—
4	<a href="#">Trajectories of fear of cancer recurrence in young breast cancer survivors.</a> (2022)	Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, Massachusetts General Hospital, Mayo Clinic	United States	—
5	<a href="#">Fear of cancer recurrence in adolescent and young adult cancer survivors: A systematic review of the literature.</a> (2019)	Guangdong General Hospital, Newcastle University, Southern Medical University Nanfang Hospital	China, United Kingdom	—

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
6	<a href="#">Targeted eHealth Intervention to Reduce Breast Cancer Survivors' Fear of Recurrence: Results From the FoRtitude Randomized Trial (2021)</a>	Aurora NCORP, Clinical Outcomes Solutions, Harvard Medical School	United States	Influential
7	<a href="#">Psychological distress and associated additional medical expenditures in adolescent and young adult cancer survivors. (2022)</a>	University of California Davis	United States	—
8	<a href="#">Psychological problems among cancer patients in relation to healthcare and societal costs: A systematic review. (2021)</a>	Amsterdam UMC, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam	Netherlands	—
9	<a href="#">Examining fear of cancer recurrence in primary brain tumor patients and their caregivers using the Actor-Partner Interdependence Model. (2021)</a>	Massey Cancer Center, Virginia Commonwealth University	United States	—
10	<a href="#">Prediction of high-level fear of cancer recurrence in breast cancer survivors: An integrative approach utilizing random forest algorithm and visual nomogram (2024)</a>	Changchun Central Hospital, Heping Hospital Affiliated to Changzhi Medical College, The First Hospital of Jilin University	China	—

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 advanced couple-focused alcohol intervention research by examining how partner pronoun use and communal coping influence abstinence outcomes.*

The researcher’s contribution centers on a 2017 study investigating the interplay between partner pronoun use, communal coping, and abstinence within couple-focused interventions for problematic alcohol use. This work appears to address a gap in understanding how linguistic and relational dynamics specifically impact treatment efficacy in dyadic settings. By focusing on these nuanced interpersonal factors, the research offers a distinct perspective on behavioral mechanisms in addiction recovery.

The significance of this line of work is evidenced by its uptake in the scientific community. With 71 citations, the paper has attracted sustained attention. Notably, 100% of the classified citing papers originate from independent researchers, indicating that the findings have resonated beyond the author’s immediate network and influenced broader scholarly discourse on relational interventions.

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

#### CORE PAPER

[Partner pronoun use, communal coping, and abstinence during couple-focused intervention for problematic alcohol use](#)

2017 · 71 citations (GS)

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
1	<a href="#">Scoping review on natural language processing applications in counselling and psychotherapy.</a> (2026)	Carleton University, The University of British Columbia	Canada	—
2	<a href="#">Communal Coping and Adjustment to Chronic Illness: Theory Update and Evidence.</a> (2018)	Carnegie Mellon University	United States	—
3	<a href="#">The Extended Theoretical Model of Communal Coping: Understanding the Properties and Functionality of Communal Coping</a> (2020)	University of North Carolina, Charlotte	United States	—
4	<a href="#">Measuring "we-ness" in couple relationships: A social identity approach.</a> (2023)	Australian National University, University of Queensland	Australia	—
5	<a href="#">Coping in Teams: Exploring Athletes' Communal Coping Strategies to Deal With Shared Stressors</a> (2018)	Institut National du Sport, de l'Expertise et de la Performance, University of Côte d'Azur	France	Influential
6	<a href="#">Meta-analytic evidence that we-talk predicts relationship and personal functioning in romantic couples</a> (2018)	—	—	—
7	<a href="#">Implicit and Explicit Communal Coping in Couples with Recently Diagnosed Type 2 Diabetes.</a> (2017)	Carnegie Mellon University, University of Pittsburgh	United States	—
8	<a href="#">Family-Focused Practices in Addictions: A Scoping Review</a> (2021)	Centre for Addiction and Mental Health, King's University College, University of Western Ontario, University of Toronto	Canada	—
9	<a href="#">Patient and partner illness appraisals and health among adults with type 1 diabetes.</a> (2019)	Carnegie Mellon University, University of Utah	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
Carnegie Mellon University	United States	SCImago #266 · THE 24 · QS 52	3
The University of Sydney	Australia	SCImago #93 · THE =53 · QS =25	2
University of St Andrews	United Kingdom	SCImago #1863 · THE =162 · QS 113	2
National University of Singapore	Singapore	SCImago #59 · THE 17 · QS 8	2
McGill University	Canada	SCImago #168 · THE =41 · QS 27	2

Institution	Country	World ranking	Citing papers
Aarhus University	Denmark	SCImago #293 · THE 101 · QS 131	2
Ingham Institute for Applied Medical Research	Australia	SCImago #6112	2
Heping Hospital Affiliated to Changzhi Medical College	China	SCImago #9287	1
Massachusetts General Hospital, Harvard Medical School	United States	—	1
Deakin University	Australia	SCImago #607 · THE 201–250 · QS =207	1
University of Ottawa	Canada	SCImago #610 · THE =187 · QS =219	1
University of Macau	China	SCImago #942 · THE =145 · QS =285	1
University of California Davis	United States	SCImago #194 · THE 64 · QS =114	1
Universitas Indonesia	Indonesia	SCImago #1455 · THE 801–1000 · QS 189	1
University of Toronto	Canada	SCImago #39 · THE 21 · QS 29	1

### Geographic distribution of citing authors

Country	Citing papers
United States	14
Australia	6
Netherlands	5
China	4
Canada	4
Singapore	3
Denmark	2
United Kingdom	2
Japan	1
Malaysia	1
South Korea	1
Switzerland	1

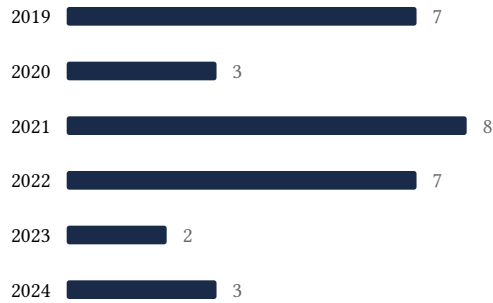
Citing-institution prestige and the spread of citing countries speak to recognition **beyond the scholar's own institution and circle** – the dispersion the AAO looks for. World rankings (SCImago / THE / QS) are context, not a stand-alone criterion: the AAO does not treat a citing institution's rank 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.

2017  2

2018  4



## 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	Effects of a Randomized Gratitude Intervention on Death-Related Fear of Recurrence in Breast Cancer Survivors	7	Dhanasar – Prong 2 (well-positioned)

<b>Contribution</b>	<b>Core paper</b>	<b>Indep. cites</b>	<b>Supports</b>
Contribution 2	Assessing the relationship between fear of cancer recurrence and health care utilization in early-stage breast cancer survivors	10	Dhanasar – Prong 2 (well-positioned)
Contribution 3	Partner pronoun use, communal coping, and abstinence during couple-focused intervention for problematic alcohol use	9	Dhanasar – Prong 2 (well-positioned)