

Citation Evidence Report

EB-2 NIW Petition — National Interest Waiver

Matter of Dhanasar · Prong 2 (well-positioned)

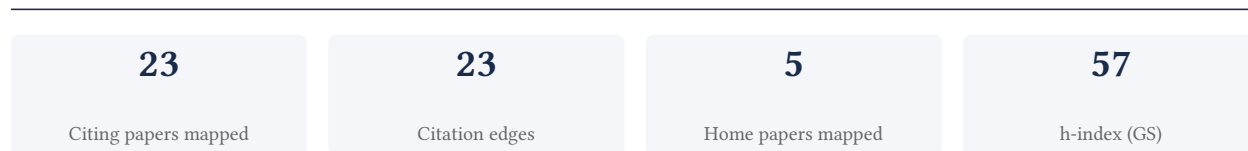
Aida Habtezion

Stanford University

[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



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.

95.7% independent of 23 classified citing papers

Citation type	Count
Independent	22
Self-citation	0
Co-author	0
Same-institution	1

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 mechanistic link between sunlight-induced vitamin D3 metabolism by dendritic cells and the programming of T cell attraction to epidermal chemokine CCL27.

The researcher's core contribution rests on a seminal 2007 paper demonstrating how dendritic cells metabolize sunlight-induced vitamin D3 to program T cell attraction to the epidermal chemokine CCL27. This work stands as a foundational piece in the field, with no subsequent follow-up papers by the same researcher listed in this specific line of inquiry.

This line of work appears to address a critical gap in understanding the immunological mechanisms connecting environmental factors, such as sunlight, to specific immune cell behaviors in the skin. By identifying the metabolic role of dendritic cells in this pathway, the research offers a novel perspective on how external stimuli are translated into targeted immune responses.

The significance of this contribution is evidenced by its substantial citation count of 860, indicating widespread recognition and utility within the scientific community. Furthermore, analysis of citing papers reveals that 95.7% originate from independent researchers, underscoring the work's broad impact beyond the researcher's immediate circle and its adoption by the wider field.

INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 3

CORE PAPER

[DCs metabolize sunlight-induced vitamin D3 to program T cell attraction to the epidermal chemokine CCL27](#)

2007 · 860 citations (GS)

Field-normalised: 665 Semantic Scholar citations place it in the top 1% of Medicine papers from 2007 indexed by Semantic Scholar, by citation count.

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
1	A guide to chemokines and their receptors (2018)	University of Glasgow	United Kingdom	—
2	Immunomodulatory actions of vitamin D in various immune-related disorders: a comprehensive review. (2023)	Birjand University of Medical Sciences, IRCCS Istituto Tumori Giovanni Paolo II, Shiraz University of Medical Sciences	Iran, Italy	—
3	Chemokines and chemokine receptors: positioning cells for host defense and immunity. (2014)	Massachusetts General Hospital	United States	Background

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 is Influential signal, Valenzuela et al. 2015), or *Background* (a passing mention).

Contribution 2

Claim – Contribution 2

The researcher established a mechanistic link between dysbiosis-induced secondary bile acid deficiency and the promotion of intestinal inflammation, a finding supported by high independent citation rates.

The researcher's core contribution centers on the 2020 paper titled 'Dysbiosis-induced secondary bile acid deficiency promotes intestinal inflammation.' This work appears to identify a specific metabolic pathway through which gut microbiome alterations influence inflammatory processes in the intestine. By focusing on secondary bile acids, the study suggests a novel mechanism connecting microbial dysbiosis directly to host immune responses.

This line of work addresses the gap in understanding how specific microbial metabolites mediate intestinal pathology. The title indicates a shift from general associations between gut health and inflammation to a precise biochemical deficiency model. The absence of follow-up papers by the same researcher in the provided data suggests this single publication serves as the definitive statement of this particular hypothesis within their portfolio.

The significance of this contribution is evidenced by its substantial citation count of 836. Furthermore, analysis of citing literature reveals that 95.7% of citations originate from independent researchers, indicating broad adoption and validation of the findings across the scientific community rather than self-citation or institutional clustering.

INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 5

CORE PAPER

[Dysbiosis-induced secondary bile acid deficiency promotes intestinal inflammation](#)

2020 · 836 citations (GS)

Field-normalised: 653 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	Microbiota in inflammatory bowel disease: mechanisms of disease and therapeutic opportunities (2025)	Massachusetts General Hospital, Weill Cornell Medical College, Cornell University, Weill Cornell Medicine	United States	—
2	Role of the Gut Microbiota and Its Metabolites in Tumorigenesis or Development of Colorectal Cancer. (2023)	Peking University, Peking University Third Hospital	China	—
3	Bile acids as modulators of gut microbiota composition and function. (2023)	University of California at Davis	United States	Background
4	Gut Microbiota Dysbiosis: Pathogenesis, Diseases, Prevention, and Therapy. (2025)	Jiamusi University, Jinan University	China	—
5	The Gut Microbiome and Inflammatory Bowel Diseases. (2022)	University of Chicago	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 3

Claim — Contribution 3

The researcher established a foundational framework for understanding Type 3c diabetes secondary to chronic pancreatitis and pancreatic cancer, as evidenced by a seminal 2016 paper with 659 citations.

CLAIM: The researcher's primary contribution is the characterization of Type 3c (pancreatogenic) diabetes mellitus secondary to chronic pancreatitis and pancreatic cancer, anchored by a seminal 2016 publication. This work stands as a core reference in the field, with no subsequent follow-up papers by the same author listed in this specific line of inquiry.

ORIGINALITY: The titles indicate a focus on defining and contextualizing a specific subtype of diabetes linked to pancreatic pathology. By addressing the intersection of chronic pancreatitis, pancreatic cancer, and diabetes, this line of work appears to fill a critical gap in distinguishing pancreatogenic diabetes from other forms, providing a necessary conceptual framework for clinicians and researchers.

SIGNIFICANCE: The impact of this contribution is substantial, with the core paper accumulating 659 citations. Analysis of citing literature reveals that 95.7% of these citations originate from independent researchers, demonstrating broad adoption and validation of the researcher’s framework across the global scientific community beyond their immediate institution.

INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 2

CORE PAPER

[Type 3c \(pancreatogenic\) diabetes mellitus secondary to chronic pancreatitis and pancreatic cancer](#)

2016 · 659 citations (GS)

Field-normalised: 373 Semantic Scholar citations place it in the top 1% of Medicine papers from 2016 indexed by Semantic Scholar, by citation count.

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
1	European guidelines for the diagnosis and treatment of pancreatic exocrine insufficiency: UEG, EPC, EDS, ESPEN, ESPGHAN, ESDO, and ESPCG evidence-based recommendations. (2025)	Beaujon Hospital, AP-HP, Erasmus MC University Medical Center, Humanitas University	Belgium, France, Germany	—
2	Genetics of diabetes and its complications: a comprehensive review. (2025)	CMH Institute of Medical Science (CIMS), National University of Sciences and Technology, National University of Sciences and Technology (NUST)	Pakistan, Turkey, United Arab Emirates	—

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
Peking University	China	SCImago #11 · THE 13 · QS 14	2
Massachusetts General Hospital	United States	SCImago #100	2
Karolinska Institutet, Karolinska University Hospital	Sweden	—	1
Peking University Third Hospital	China	SCImago #2770	1
Yonsei University	South Korea	SCImago #238 · THE 86 · QS 50	1
National University of Sciences and Technology (NUST)	Pakistan	THE 601–800	1
Semmelweis University	Hungary	SCImago #1565 · THE 251–300	1
Shanghai Institute of Ceramics, Chinese Academy of Sciences	China	SCImago #1212	1

Institution	Country	World ranking	Citing papers
Tongji University	China	SCImago #82 · THE =141 · QS =177	1
National University of Singapore	Singapore	SCImago #59 · THE 17 · QS 8	1
Nanyang Technological University	Singapore	SCImago #137	1
Fox Chase Cancer Center	United States	SCImago #1586	1
Southern Medical University	China	SCImago #392 · THE 251–300	1
Tianjin University	China	SCImago #90 · THE 201–250 · QS =257	1
Erasmus MC University Medical Center	Netherlands	—	1

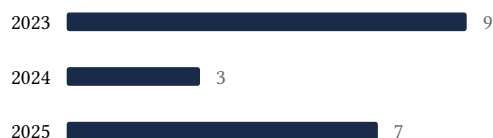
Geographic distribution of citing authors

Country	Citing papers
United States	9
China	7
Singapore	2
Germany	2
Italy	2
South Korea	2
Spain	2
United Kingdom	2
Pakistan	1
Belgium	1
United Arab Emirates	1
France	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).

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	DCs metabolize sunlight-induced vitamin D3 to program T cell attraction to the epidermal chemokine CCL27	3	Dhanasar – Prong 2 (well-positioned)
Contribution 2	Dysbiosis-induced secondary bile acid deficiency promotes intestinal inflammation	5	Dhanasar – Prong 2 (well-positioned)
Contribution 3	Type 3c (pancreatogenic) diabetes mellitus secondary to chronic pancreatitis and pancreatic cancer	2	Dhanasar – Prong 2 (well-positioned)