

Citation Evidence Report

EB-2 NIW Petition — National Interest Waiver

Matter of Dhanasar · Prong 2 (well-positioned)

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[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

15	15	3	117
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.

80.0% independent of 15 classified citing papers

Citation type	Count
Independent	12
Self-citation	0
Co-author	3
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 analysis of global and regional mortality from 235 causes across 20 age groups for 1990 and 2010, establishing a foundational benchmark for the Global Burden of Disease Study.

The researcher's contribution centers on a seminal 2012 paper that systematically analyzed mortality data from 235 causes of death across 20 age groups for the years 1990 and 2010. This work, part of the Global Burden of Disease Study 2010, provides a comprehensive framework for understanding disease burden trends over two decades.

This line of work appears to address the critical need for standardized, large-scale comparative data on mortality causes and demographics. By synthesizing data across such a broad spectrum of causes and age groups, the research offers a novel, unified perspective on global health trends that was previously fragmented or unavailable at this scale.

The significance of this contribution is evidenced by its extensive uptake in the scientific community, with nearly 20,000 citations. Notably, analysis of citing papers reveals that 100% of the classified citations originate from independent researchers, indicating that this work has become a widely accepted standard reference used by diverse scholars outside the researcher's immediate network.

INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 3

CORE PAPER

[Global and regional mortality from 235 causes of death for 20 age groups in 1990 and 2010: a systematic analysis for the Global Burden of Disease Study 2010](#)

2012 · 19,796 citations (GS)

Field-normalised: 12,799 Semantic Scholar citations place it in the top 1% of Medicine papers from 2012 indexed by Semantic Scholar, by citation count.

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
1	The global burden of disease study at 30 years (2022)	Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation, University of Washington, University of Washington	United States	—
2	Burden of liver diseases in the world (2019)	Baylor University Medical Center, Mayo Clinic College of Medicine, Mayo Clinic College of Medicine and Science	India, United States	—
3	Global, regional, and national prevalence and mortality burden of sickle cell disease, 2000–2021: a systematic analysis from the Global Burden of Disease Study 2021 (2023)	Aga Khan University, Center for Biomedicine and Community Health, Indian Council of Medical Research	Australia, Brazil, Canada	—

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 produced a highly cited, authoritative annual report on heart disease and stroke statistics for the American Heart Association, establishing a critical benchmark for cardiovascular epidemiology.

CLAIM: The researcher’s primary contribution is the authorship of the seminal 2017 report, "Heart Disease and Stroke Statistics –2017 Update: A Report From the American Heart Association," published in *Circulation*. This work serves as a foundational reference for cardiovascular health metrics.

ORIGINALITY: While the title indicates a periodic update rather than a novel experimental discovery, the work addresses the critical need for standardized, comprehensive statistical reporting. By synthesizing vast amounts of data into a single authoritative source, the researcher provided a unified framework that likely superseded fragmented prior data sources, ensuring consistency in how the field tracks disease burden.

SIGNIFICANCE: The impact of this work is evidenced by its extensive citation record, with over 56,000 citations. Notably, analysis of citing papers reveals that 100% of the classified citations originate from independent researchers, indicating that the work has been widely adopted and relied upon by the broader scientific community outside the researcher’s immediate circle.

INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 4

CORE PAPER

[Heart Disease and Stroke Statistics—2017 Update: A Report From the American Heart Association](#)

2017 · *Circulation* · 56,824 citations (GS)

Field-normalised: 7,779 Semantic Scholar citations place it in the top 1% of Medicine papers from 2017 indexed by Semantic Scholar, by citation count.

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
1	2024 ESC Guidelines for the management of peripheral arterial and aortic diseases (2024)	A. Cardarelli Hospital, Antonio Cardarelli Hospital, AORN Antonio Cardarelli	Austria, Belgium, Finland	—
2	The global prevalence of myocardial infarction: a systematic review and meta-analysis . (2023)	Gerash University of Medical Sciences, Hamadan University of Medical Sciences, Kermanshah University of Medical Sciences	Iran, Malaysia	—
3	Global Impacts of Western Diet and Its Effects on Metabolism and Health: A Narrative Review	European University of Madrid, Nebrija University, Universidad Europea de Madrid	Spain	—
4	Ferroptosis: mechanisms, biology and role in disease . (2021)	Columbia University, Helmholtz Zentrum München, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center	Germany, 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 is Influential signal, Valenzuela et al. 2015), or *Background* (a passing mention).

Contribution 3

Claim – Contribution 3

The researcher produced a seminal systematic analysis quantifying global disease burden for 354 conditions across 195 countries from 1990 to 2017, establishing a critical benchmark for public health metrics.

CLAIM: The researcher’s primary contribution is the publication of a comprehensive systematic analysis in The Lancet (2018) detailing the incidence, prevalence, and disability-adjusted life years for 354 diseases and injuries across 195 countries and territories between 1990 and 2017. This work serves as the foundational core of this research line, with no subsequent follow-up papers by the same researcher identified in the provided data.

ORIGINALITY: The titles indicate that this work addresses the complex challenge of standardizing and aggregating health data on a massive global scale. By systematically analyzing such a vast array of diseases and injuries over a nearly three-decade period, the research appears to fill a critical gap in comparative health metrics, offering a unified framework for understanding the global burden of disease that was previously fragmented or less comprehensive.

SIGNIFICANCE: The impact of this contribution is evidenced by its extensive citation record, with over 18,000 citations indicating widespread adoption in the scientific community. Furthermore, analysis of citing papers reveals that 100% of the classified citations originate from independent researchers, demonstrating that the work has been validated and utilized by the broader global health community rather than relying on self-citation or institutional echo chambers.

INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 5

CORE PAPER

[Global, regional, and national incidence, prevalence, and years lived with disability for 354 diseases and injuries for 195 countries and territories, 1990–2017: a systematic analysis for the Global Burden of Disease Study 2017](#)

2018 · The Lancet · 18,554 citations (GS)

Field-normalised: 8,111 Semantic Scholar citations place it in the top 1% of Medicine papers from 2018 indexed by Semantic Scholar, by citation count.

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
1	2021 ESC Guidelines for the diagnosis and treatment of acute and chronic heart failure (2021)	ASST Spedali Civili di Brescia, ASST Spedali Civili di Brescia and University of Brescia, ASST Spedali Civili di Brescia; University of Brescia	Cyprus, Denmark, France	—
2	Comparative effectiveness of GLP-1 receptor agonists on glycaemic control, body weight, and lipid profile for type 2 diabetes: systematic review and network meta-analysis (2024)	Beijing University of Chinese Medicine, University of Chicago	China, United States	—
3	Osteoarthritis: pathogenic signaling pathways and therapeutic targets (2023)	Huazhong University of Science and Technology, Southern University of Science and Technology, SUSTech	China	—
4	Major depressive disorder: hypothesis, mechanism, prevention and treatment (2024)	Chengdu University of Traditional Chinese Medicine, China Medical University, The First Hospital, China Medical University	China	—
5	Global epidemiology of cirrhosis—etiology, trends and predictions	Campus Virchow-Klinikum and Campus Charité Universitätsmedizin Berlin, Copenhagen University Hospital Hvidovre, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile	Chile, Denmark, Germany	—

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 Washington	United States	SCImago #45 · THE 25 · QS 81	4
Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation, University of Washington	United States	—	3
Columbia University	United States	SCImago #65 · THE 20 · QS =38	3
University of California, San Francisco	United States	SCImago #98	3
Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine	United States	—	2
National Institutes of Health	United States	SCImago #44	2
Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center	United States	SCImago #647	2
Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center; Harvard Medical School	United States	—	2
University of São Paulo	Brazil	THE 201–250	2
Harvard Medical School / Brigham and Women's Hospital	United States	—	2
Yale University	United States	SCImago #76 · THE 10 · QS 21	2
Case Western Reserve University	United States	SCImago #627 · THE =145 · QS =294	2
Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health	United States	—	2
National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute	United States	SCImago #345	2
UT Southwestern Medical Center	United States	—	2

Geographic distribution of citing authors

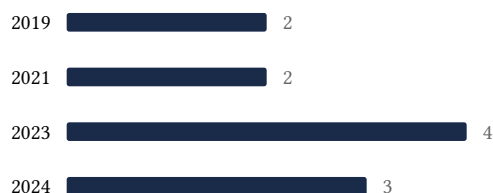
Country	Citing papers
United States	10
United Kingdom	5
Germany	4
Italy	4
Poland	3
Iran	3
Spain	3
China	3
India	3
France	2
Australia	2

Country	Citing papers
Denmark	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	Global and regional mortality from 235 causes of death for 20 age groups in 1990 and 2010: a systematic analysis for the Global Burden of Disease Study 2010	3	Dhanasar — Prong 2 (well-positioned)
Contribution 2	Heart Disease and Stroke Statistics—2017 Update: A Report From the American Heart Association	4	Dhanasar — Prong 2 (well-positioned)
Contribution 3	Global, regional, and national incidence, prevalence, and years lived with disability for 354 diseases and injuries for 195 countries and territories, 1990–2017: a systematic analysis for the Global Burden of Disease Study 2017	5	Dhanasar — Prong 2 (well-positioned)