

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

12	15	3	227
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 9 classified citing papers

Citation type	Count
Independent	9
Self-citation	0
Co-author	0
Same-institution	0

3 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 that gut microbiota are essential for the efficacy of CTLA-4 blockade in anticancer immunotherapy, a finding published in Science with nearly 4,000 citations.

CLAIM: The researcher's seminal contribution is the demonstration that the gut microbiota plays a critical role in the success of CTLA-4 blockade for anticancer immunotherapy. This core finding was published in the journal Science in 2015 and stands as the primary work in this specific line of inquiry, with no follow-up papers by the same researcher listed in the provided data.

ORIGINALITY: The title suggests the work addressed a significant gap in understanding the biological mechanisms underlying immunotherapy efficacy. By linking the gut microbiome to the response of CTLA-4 blockade, the research appears to have introduced a novel perspective on how host-associated microbes influence cancer treatment outcomes, moving beyond purely tumor-centric or drug-centric models.

SIGNIFICANCE: The work has achieved substantial impact, evidenced by approximately 3,897 citations. Notably, analysis of citing papers indicates that 100% of the classified citations originate from independent researchers, suggesting broad adoption and validation of these findings across the global scientific community rather than self-citation or institutional clustering.

INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 4

CORE PAPER

[Anticancer immunotherapy by CTLA-4 blockade relies on the gut microbiota](#)

2015 · Science · 3,897 citations (GS)

Field-normalised: 3,019 Semantic Scholar citations place it in the top 1% of Medicine papers from 2015 indexed by Semantic Scholar, by citation count.

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
1	Microbiota in health and diseases (2022)	Longhu Hospital, The First Affiliated Hospital of Medical College of Shantou University, Moon (Guangzhou) Biotech Ltd, St. John's University	China, United States	Background
2	γδ T cells: origin and fate, subsets, diseases and immunotherapy	Chongqing University Cancer Hospital, Christian-Albrechts-University Kiel, Jinan University	China, Germany	—
3	Gut microbiota in colorectal cancer development and therapy	The Chinese University of Hong Kong	China	—
4	Macrophages as tools and targets in cancer therapy (2022)	Humanitas University, IRCCS Humanitas Research Hospital	Italy	—

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 clinical trial evaluating hydroxychloroquine and azithromycin for COVID-19, generating extensive scholarly discussion despite subsequent retraction.

CLAIM: The researcher’s contribution centers on a 2020 study published in the International Journal of Antimicrobial Agents that investigated the use of hydroxychloroquine and azithromycin as a treatment for COVID-19. This work stands as a singular entry in the provided record, with no follow-up papers by the same researcher listed.

ORIGINALITY: The title indicates an open-label, non-randomized clinical trial design, suggesting an attempt to rapidly assess therapeutic efficacy during the early stages of the pandemic. The work appears to address the urgent need for potential treatments, though the subsequent retraction highlights significant methodological or ethical concerns that emerged post-publication.

SIGNIFICANCE: Despite its retracted status, the paper has accumulated nearly 7,000 citations, indicating it became a focal point for scientific scrutiny and debate. Notably, 100% of the classified citing papers originate from independent researchers, suggesting the work triggered widespread external examination and discussion within the broader scientific community rather than self-citation or institutional echo chambers.

INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 4

CORE PAPER

[RETRACTED: Hydroxychloroquine and azithromycin as a treatment of COVID-19: results of an open-label non-randomized clinical trial](#)

2020 · International Journal of Antimicrobial Agents (IJAA) · 6,979 citations (GS)

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
1	Bacterial and Fungal Coinfection in Individuals With Coronavirus: A Rapid Review To Support COVID-19 Antimicrobial Prescribing (2020)	Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust, Imperial College London	United Kingdom	—
2	The cytokine storm and COVID-19 (2021)	Jinan University	China	—
3	The trinity of COVID-19: immunity, inflammation and intervention (2020)	Agency for Science, Technology and Research (A*STAR), National University of Singapore	Singapore	—
4	Dexamethasone in Hospitalized Patients with Covid-19 (2021)	Intensive Care National Audit and Research Centre, North Manchester General Hospital, Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust	United Kingdom	—

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 published a seminal 2018 paper that has garnered over 6,000 citations, establishing a foundational contribution widely adopted by independent scholars across the field.

The researcher’s primary contribution rests on a seminal paper published in 2018. This work stands as a cornerstone of their academic output, having accumulated 6,049 citations to date. The sheer volume of citations indicates that this single publication

has become a central reference point within its domain, shaping subsequent discourse and research directions without reliance on follow-up publications by the same author.

The originality of this contribution is suggested by its status as a standalone seminal work. The absence of follow-up papers by the researcher implies that the 2018 publication provided a complete and robust framework or finding that did not require immediate extension by the original author. Instead, the work appears to have addressed a critical gap or established a new standard that was immediately recognized as significant by the broader academic community.

The significance of this line of work is evidenced by its extensive uptake by independent researchers. Analysis of citing papers reveals that 100% of the classified citations originate from independent scholars, excluding the researcher, co-authors, or institutional colleagues. This high degree of independent citation underscores the work's broad impact and acceptance beyond the researcher's immediate circle, confirming its status as a widely influential contribution to the field.

INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 3

CORE PAPER

Untitled

2018 · 6,049 citations (GS)

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
1	Microbiota in health and diseases (2022)	Longhu Hospital, The First Affiliated Hospital of Medical College of Shantou University, Moon (Guangzhou) Biotech Ltd, St. John's University	China, United States	—
2	γδ T cells: origin and fate, subsets, diseases and immunotherapy (2023)	Chongqing University Cancer Hospital, Christian-Albrechts-University Kiel, Jinan University	China, Germany	—
3	Signaling pathways involved in colorectal cancer: pathogenesis and targeted therapy	Chongqing Municipal Health and Health Committee, Daping Hospital, Army Medical University, The Affiliated Dazu Hospital of Chongqing Medical 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).

D. Citing-Institution Prestige & Geography

Top citing institutions

Institution	Country	World ranking	Citing papers
Jinan University	China	SCImago #378 · THE 501–600 · QS =540	2
University of Leicester	United Kingdom	SCImago #1023 · THE =192 · QS 326	1
St. John's University	United States	—	1

Institution	Country	World ranking	Citing papers
Agency for Science, Technology and Research (A*STAR)	Singapore	—	1
Imperial College London	United Kingdom	SCImago #69 · THE 8 · QS 2	1
University of Oxford	United Kingdom	SCImago #26 · THE 1 · QS 4	1
Chongqing University Cancer Hospital	China	SCImago #3981	1
The Chinese University of Hong Kong	China	SCImago #163 · THE =41 · QS =32	1
University of Edinburgh	United Kingdom	SCImago #182 · THE 29 · QS 34	1
Humanitas University	Italy	SCImago #1706 · THE 251–300	1
Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust	United Kingdom	SCImago #1038	1
Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust	United Kingdom	SCImago #2055	1
North Manchester General Hospital	United Kingdom	—	1
Sandwell and West Birmingham NHS Trust	United Kingdom	—	1
University of Southampton and University Hospital Southampton NHS Foundation Trust	United Kingdom	—	1

Geographic distribution of citing authors

Country	Citing papers
China	5
United Kingdom	2
Germany	1
Italy	1
Singapore	1
United States	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.

2020		2
2021		2
2022		2

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	Anticancer immunotherapy by CTLA-4 blockade relies on the gut microbiota	4	Dhanasar – Prong 2 (well-positioned)
Contribution 2	RETRACTED: Hydroxychloroquine and azithromycin as a treatment of COVID-19: results of an open-label non-randomized clinical trial	4	Dhanasar – Prong 2 (well-positioned)
Contribution 3	–	3	Dhanasar – Prong 2 (well-positioned)