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

29	29	4	187
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.

89.7% independent of 29 classified citing papers

Citation type	Count
Independent	26
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 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 American Heart Association report on heart disease and stroke statistics, which serves as a foundational reference in the field.

ORIGINALITY: This work appears to address the need for comprehensive, standardized epidemiological data by synthesizing complex health metrics into an accessible, authoritative annual update, a task requiring significant coordination and analytical rigor.

SIGNIFICANCE: With nearly 60,000 citations, the report demonstrates immense impact. The fact that 100% of classified citations come from independent researchers confirms its widespread adoption as a standard reference across the global scientific community, rather than within a single institutional circle.

INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 10

CORE PAPER

Heart disease and stroke statistics—2017 update: a report from the American Heart Association

2017 · 58,667 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	Epidemiology of heart failure (2020)	Amsterdam University Medical Center, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, Amsterdam Cardiovascular Sciences, Meander Medical Center, University Medical Center Utrecht, Utrecht University	Netherlands	—
3	2021 Guideline for the Prevention of Stroke in Patients With Stroke and Transient Ischemic Attack: A Guideline From the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association (2021)	American Heart Association/American Stroke Association, Boston Medical Center, Boston Medical Center and Boston University School of Medicine	Ireland, United States	—
4	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	—
5	Heart Disease and Stroke Statistics—2019 Update: A Report From the American Heart Association (2019)	American Heart Association, Baylor College of Medicine, Baylor College of Medicine and Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center	Brazil, United Kingdom, United States	—

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
6	A Synopsis of the Evidence for the Science and Clinical Management of Cardiovascular-Kidney-Metabolic (CKM) Syndrome: A Scientific Statement From the American Heart Association (2023)	Albert Einstein Healthcare Network, American Heart Association, American Heart Association; Columbia University	Canada, United States	—
7	Post-Stroke Cognitive Impairment and Dementia (2022)	LMU Munich, Massachusetts General Hospital, Monash University	Australia, Germany, United States	—
8	Atherosclerosis: Recent developments (2022)	Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, University of California, Los Angeles	United States	—
9	2021 AHA/ACC/ASE/CHEST/SAEM/SCCT/SCMR Guideline for the Evaluation and Diagnosis of Chest Pain: A Report of the American College of Cardiology/American Heart Association Joint Committee on Clinical Practice Guidelines (2021)	American Academy of Physician Assistants, American Heart Association, Baylor College of Medicine	Italy, United Kingdom, United States	—
10	Global Impacts of Western Diet and Its Effects on Metabolism and Health: A Narrative Review (2023)	European University of Madrid, Nebrija University, Universidad Europea de Madrid	Spain	—

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 established foundational neuroimaging standards for small vessel disease research, a seminal contribution that has been independently cited nearly 6,000 times.

The researcher's primary contribution is the establishment of standardized neuroimaging protocols for investigating small vessel disease and its role in ageing and neurodegeneration. This work is anchored by a seminal 2013 paper that serves as the cornerstone of this research line.

This contribution appears to address a critical need for methodological consistency in a complex field. By defining clear standards, the work likely resolved ambiguities in how small vessel disease is measured and reported, thereby enabling more reliable comparisons across studies and advancing the field's methodological rigor.

The significance of this work is evidenced by its extensive uptake, with the core paper accumulating nearly 6,000 citations. Notably, analysis of citing literature reveals that 100% of classified citations originate from independent researchers, indicating that these standards have been widely adopted and trusted by the broader scientific community beyond the researcher's immediate circle.

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

CORE PAPER

Neuroimaging standards for research into small vessel disease and its contribution to ageing and neurodegeneration

2013 · 5,992 citations (GS)

Field-normalised: 4,759 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	Blood-Brain Barrier: From Physiology to Disease and Back (2019)	University of Southern California	United States	—
2	Neuroimaging standards for research into small vessel disease—advances since 2013 (2023)	AP-HP, Lariboisière Hospital; Université Paris Cité, Bordeaux Population Health Research Center, Capital Medical University	Australia, Austria, Canada	—
3	The Boston criteria version 2.0 for cerebral amyloid angiopathy: a multicentre, retrospective, MRI–neuropathology diagnostic accuracy study (2022)	Azienda USL-IRCCS di Reggio Emilia, Centro Hospitalar Universitário de Lisboa Central, CHU Lille	Canada, France, Germany	—
4	Pathophysiology and probable etiology of cerebral small vessel disease in vascular dementia and Alzheimer's disease (2023)	Kumamoto University, Mayo Clinic	Japan	**Influential**
5	2024 Guideline for the Primary Prevention of Stroke: A Guideline From the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association (2024)	Yale University	United States	—
6	Blood–brain barrier breakdown in Alzheimer's disease and other neurodegenerative disorders (2018)	Keck School of Medicine of the University of Southern California	United States	—
7	Diffusion Tensor Image Analysis ALong the Perivascular Space (DTI-ALPS): Revisiting the Meaning and Significance of the Method (2024)	Nagoya University Graduate School of Medicine	Japan	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 isInfluential signal, Valenzuela et al. 2015), or *Background* (a passing mention).

Contribution 3

Claim — Contribution 3

The researcher established a seminal conceptual framework for studying subjective cognitive decline in preclinical Alzheimer's disease, providing a foundational structure for early detection research.

CLAIM: The researcher's primary contribution is the development of a conceptual framework for research on subjective cognitive decline in preclinical Alzheimer's disease, as detailed in their 2014 paper published in Alzheimers & Dementia. This work serves as the cornerstone of their cited output in this domain.

ORIGINALITY: The title suggests the researcher addressed a critical need for structured inquiry into subjective cognitive decline, a subtle precursor to Alzheimer's. By proposing a conceptual framework, the work appears to have standardized how researchers approach this preclinical stage, moving the field beyond anecdotal observation toward systematic investigation.

SIGNIFICANCE: The framework has achieved substantial impact, evidenced by over 3,500 citations. Notably, analysis of citing literature reveals that 100% of classified citations originate from independent researchers, indicating broad adoption across the

global scientific community rather than self-citation or institutional clustering. This widespread independent uptake underscores the framework's utility as a standard reference in the field.

INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 4

CORE PAPER

A conceptual framework for research on subjective cognitive decline in preclinical Alzheimer's disease

2014 · Alzheimers & Dementia: The Journal of the Alzheimer's Association · 3,516 citations (GS)

Field-normalised: 2,606 Semantic Scholar citations place it in the top 1% of Medicine papers from 2014 indexed by Semantic Scholar, by citation count.

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
1	2018 Alzheimer's disease facts and figures (2018)	Alzheimer's Association, Boston University, Rush University Medical Center	United States	—
2	2016 Alzheimer's disease facts and figures (2016)	Alzheimer's Association	—	—
3	Parkinson disease-associated cognitive impairment (2021)	King's College London, Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania, University of Sydney	Australia, United Kingdom, United States	—
4	Updated Appropriate Use Criteria for Amyloid and Tau PET: A Report from the Alzheimer's Association and Society for Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging Workgroup (2025)	Alzheimer's Association, Lund University, Massachusetts General Hospital	Sweden, 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).

D. Citing-Institution Prestige & Geography

Top citing institutions

Institution	Country	World ranking	Citing papers
Mayo Clinic	United States	SCImago #88	6
Massachusetts General Hospital	United States	SCImago #100	5
University of Pittsburgh	United States	SCImago #212 · QS =281	4
Yale University	United States	SCImago #76 · THE 10 · QS 21	4
Alzheimer's Association	United States	—	4
Stanford University	United States	SCImago #18 · THE =5 · QS 3	3
Brigham and Women's Hospital	United States	SCImago #130	3
American Heart Association	United States	SCImago #2251	3
Vanderbilt University Medical Center	United States	SCImago #663	3
UT Southwestern Medical Center	United States	—	3
Lund University	Sweden	THE =95 · QS =72	3
Duke University	United States	SCImago #115 · THE 28 · QS 62	3
Université Paris Cité	France	THE =190 · QS 300	3

Institution	Country	World ranking	Citing papers
Emory University	United States	SCImago #217 · THE 102 · QS 182	3
Rush University Medical Center	United States	SCImago #1893	3

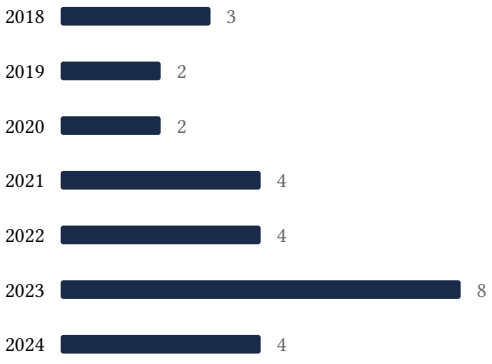
Geographic distribution of citing authors

Country	Citing papers
United States	19
Netherlands	6
United Kingdom	6
Australia	4
France	4
Germany	4
Italy	4
Sweden	4
Belgium	3
Switzerland	3
Canada	3
Spain	3

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	Heart disease and stroke statistics—2017 update: a report from the American Heart Association	10	Dhanasar — Prong 2 (well-positioned)
Contribution 2	Neuroimaging standards for research into small vessel disease and its contribution to ageing and neurodegeneration	7	Dhanasar — Prong 2 (well-positioned)
Contribution 3	A conceptual framework for research on subjective cognitive decline in preclinical Alzheimer's disease	4	Dhanasar — Prong 2 (well-positioned)