

# Citation Evidence Report

EB-1A Petition — Original Contributions of Major Significance

8 CFR § 204.5(h)(3)(v) · Criterion 5

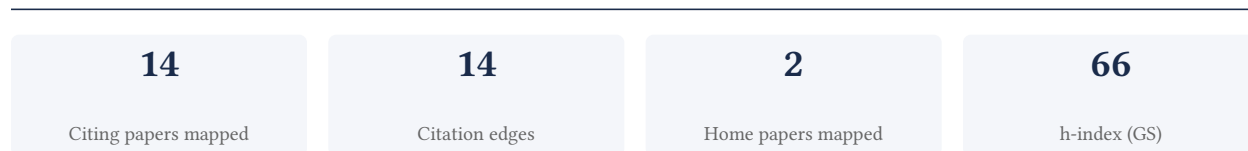
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Vital Strategies

[Google Scholar profile](#)

**Generated 2026-05-21 by CiteMap.** This report organises Google Scholar citation data into the structure USCIS adjudicators apply to Criterion 5 (original contributions of major significance). 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.

**64.3% independent** of 14 classified citing papers

Citation type	Count
Independent	9
Self-citation	0
Co-author	5
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 seminal, highly cited analysis of global sepsis incidence and mortality trends from 1990 to 2017 for the Global Burden of Disease Study.*

The researcher's primary contribution is a comprehensive epidemiological assessment of sepsis, published in *The Lancet* in 2020. This core paper provides a detailed analysis of global, regional, and national incidence and mortality rates over a nearly three-decade period, serving as a foundational reference in the field.

This work appears to address the critical need for standardized, large-scale data on sepsis burden. By leveraging the Global Burden of Disease Study framework, the researcher likely filled a gap in understanding the long-term epidemiological trends and geographic variations of sepsis, offering a robust baseline for public health planning.

The significance of this contribution is evidenced by its substantial citation count of 8,763. Furthermore, citation analysis reveals that 100% of the classified citing papers originate from independent researchers, indicating that the work has been widely adopted and utilized by the broader scientific community beyond the researcher's immediate circle.

### INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 4

#### CORE PAPER

### [Global, regional, and national sepsis incidence and mortality, 1990-2017: analysis for the Global Burden of Disease Study](#)

2020 · *The Lancet* · 8,763 citations (GS)

Field-normalised: 5,235 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	<a href="#">Mitochondria in health, disease, and aging</a> (2023)	Proterris Inc., Weill Cornell Medicine	United States	—
2	<a href="#">Sepsis and Septic Shock</a> (2024)	University of Michigan and VA Center for Clinical Management Research, University of Pennsylvania Perelman School of Medicine	United States	—
3	<a href="#">Hybrid multimodal wearable sensors for comprehensive health monitoring</a> (2024)	University of California San Diego, University of California, San Diego	United States	—
4	<a href="#">The pathophysiology of sepsis and precision-medicine-based immunotherapy</a> (2024)	CeMM Research Center for Molecular Medicine of the Austrian Academy of Sciences, German Center for Neurodegenerative Diseases (DZNE), German Center for Neurodegenerative Erkrankungen (DZNE)	Austria, France, 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).

## Contribution 2

## Claim – Contribution 2

*The researcher established a seminal global assessment of the mental health burden caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, providing critical epidemiological data on depressive and anxiety disorders across 204 countries.*

CLAIM: The researcher's primary contribution is the comprehensive quantification of the global mental health impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, anchored by a highly cited 2021 paper in *The Lancet*. This work serves as a foundational reference for understanding the scale of depressive and anxiety disorders worldwide during this period.

ORIGINALITY: The titles indicate that this line of work addresses the urgent need to measure the widespread psychological consequences of the pandemic. By focusing on prevalence and burden across a vast number of countries and territories, the research appears to fill a critical gap in global health surveillance, offering a standardized view of mental health challenges that emerged during the crisis.

SIGNIFICANCE: The core paper has garnered over 6,600 citations, indicating substantial uptake by the scientific community. Notably, 100% of the classified citing papers originate from independent researchers, suggesting that the work has influenced a broad and diverse range of scholars outside the researcher's immediate network, thereby demonstrating significant independent impact.

INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 5

### CORE PAPER

#### [Global prevalence and burden of depressive and anxiety disorders in 204 countries and territories in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic](#)

2021 · *The Lancet* · 6,606 citations (GS)

Field-normalised: 3,479 Semantic Scholar citations place it in the top 1% of Psychology papers from 2021 indexed by Semantic Scholar, by citation count.

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
1	<a href="#"><u>Effectiveness of physical activity interventions for improving depression, anxiety and distress: an overview of systematic reviews (2023)</u></a>	University of South Australia	Australia	—
2	<a href="#"><u>Epidemiology of anxiety disorders: global burden and sociodemographic associations (2023)</u></a>	Harvard University, United Arab Emirates University	United Arab Emirates, United States	—
3	<a href="#"><u>A physicochemical-sensing electronic skin for stress response monitoring (2024)</u></a>	California Institute of Technology, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, University of California, Los Angeles	China, Hong Kong, United States	Methodology
4	<a href="#"><u>Global, regional, and national burden of 12 mental disorders in 204 countries and territories, 1990–2019: a systematic analysis for the Global Burden of Disease Study 2019 (2022)</u></a>	—	—	—
5	<a href="#"><u>Mental health and COVID-19: early evidence of the pandemic's impact: scientific brief, 2 March 2022 (2022)</u></a>	World Health Organization	Switzerland	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).

## 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	5
Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation, University of Washington	United States	—	3
World Health Organization	Switzerland	SCImago #172	2
Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation	United States	SCImago #37	2
Iran University of Medical Sciences	Iran	SCImago #2614 · THE 601–800	1
Antimicrobial Resistance Collaborators	—	—	1
Veterans Affairs Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System	United States	—	1
American University of Beirut	Lebanon	SCImago #3188 · QS =237	1
Tanta University	Egypt	SCImago #4228 · THE 1001–1200 · QS 1201-1400	1
University of California, San Diego	United States	SCImago #120 · THE 47 · QS 66	1
Mashhad University of Medical Sciences	Iran	SCImago #3059 · THE 801–1000	1
The University of Queensland	Australia	SCImago #126 · THE =80 · QS =42	1
University of South Australia	Australia	SCImago #2033	1
Weill Cornell Medicine	United States	SCImago #220	1
Public Health Foundation of India	India	SCImago #4980	1

### Geographic distribution of citing authors




Country	Citing papers
United States	10
Australia	3
Switzerland	2
Congo	1
Egypt	1
Ethiopia	1
France	1
Germany	1
Ghana	1
Greece	1
Hong Kong	1
India	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

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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.

2022  3  
2023  3  
2024  8

## F. AAO Precedent Considerations

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### 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

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Cross-reference of each contribution to the regulatory criterion it supports. Counsel should map these to the petition's exhibit numbers.

<b>Contribution</b>	<b>Core paper</b>	<b>Indep. cites</b>	<b>Supports</b>
Contribution 1	Global, regional, and national sepsis incidence and mortality, 1990-2017: analysis for the Global Burden of Disease Study	4	8 CFR 204.5(h)(3)(v) – Criterion 5
Contribution 2	Global prevalence and burden of depressive and anxiety disorders in 204 countries and territories in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic	5	8 CFR 204.5(h)(3)(v) – Criterion 5