Citation Evidence Report

EB-2 NIW Petition — National Interest Waiver

Matter of Dhanasar · Prong 2 (well-positioned)

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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 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

14	14	2	66
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.

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	Mitochondria in health, disease, and aging (2023)	Proterris Inc., Weill Cornell Medicine	United States	—
2	Sepsis and Septic Shock (2024)	University of Michigan and VA Center for Clinical Management Research, University of Pennsylvania Perelman School of Medicine	United States	—
3	Hybrid multimodal wearable sensors for comprehensive health monitoring (2024)	University of California San Diego, University of California, San Diego	United States	—
4	The pathophysiology of sepsis and precision-medicine-based immunotherapy (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	Effectiveness of physical activity interventions for improving depression, anxiety and distress: an overview of systematic reviews (2023)	University of South Australia	Australia	—
2	Epidemiology of anxiety disorders: global burden and sociodemographic associations (2023)	Harvard University, United Arab Emirates University	United Arab Emirates, United States	—
3	A physicochemical-sensing electronic skin for stress response monitoring (2024)	California Institute of Technology, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, University of California, Los Angeles	China, Hong Kong, United States	Methodology
4	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)	—	—	—
5	Mental health and COVID-19: early evidence of the pandemic's impact: scientific brief, 2 March 2022 (2022)	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

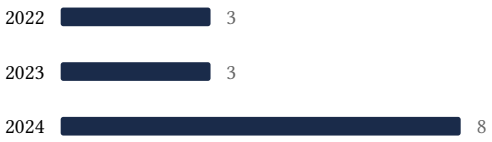
Geographic distribution of citing authors

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

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, regional, and national sepsis incidence and mortality, 1990-2017: analysis for the Global Burden of Disease Study	4	Dhanasar — Prong 2 (well-positioned)
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	Dhanasar — Prong 2 (well-positioned)