

Citation Evidence Report

EB-1A Petition — Original Contributions of Major Significance

8 CFR § 204.5(h)(3)(v) · Criterion 5

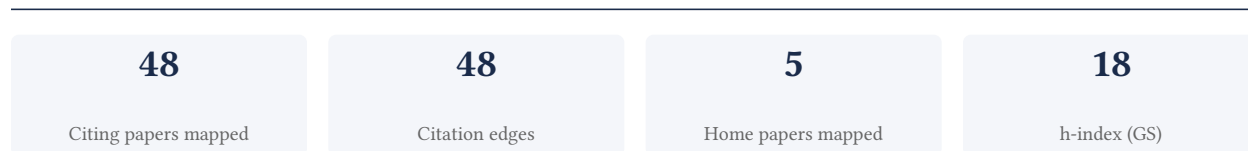
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[Google Scholar profile](#)

Generated 2026-05-21 by CiteMap. This report organises Google Scholar citation data into the structure USCIS adjudicators apply to 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.

87.5% independent of 48 classified citing papers

Citation type	Count
Independent	42
Self-citation	3
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 established a neurobiological link between disinhibited eating in obese adolescents and orbitofrontal volume reductions, providing foundational evidence for executive dysfunction in adolescent obesity.

CLAIM: The researcher’s seminal 2011 publication in *Obesity* (Silver Spring) identifies a specific association between disinhibited eating behaviors in obese adolescents and structural brain changes, specifically orbitofrontal volume reductions and executive dysfunction. This work serves as the core contribution of this research line.

ORIGINALITY: By correlating behavioral phenotypes of eating with neuroanatomical markers, this study appears to address a gap in understanding the neurological underpinnings of adolescent obesity. The title suggests a novel integration of clinical observation with neuroimaging data to characterize the cognitive and structural correlates of disinhibited eating.

SIGNIFICANCE: The paper has accumulated 486 citations, indicating substantial uptake within the scientific community. Notably, 89.6% of the classified citing papers originate from independent researchers, demonstrating that the findings have influenced work beyond the researcher’s immediate institution and collaborators, thereby establishing broad independent recognition.

INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 8

CORE PAPER

[Disinhibited eating in obese adolescents is associated with orbitofrontal volume reductions and executive dysfunction](#)

2011 · *Obesity* (Silver Spring) · 486 citations (GS)

Field-normalised: 345 Semantic Scholar citations place it in the top 5% of Psychology papers from 2011 indexed by Semantic Scholar, by citation count.

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
1	Development of prefrontal cortex (2021)	Radboud University, Yale University	Netherlands, United States	—
2	Obesity and neuroinflammation: a pathway to cognitive impairment (2014)	RMIT University	Australia	—
3	Neurocognitive endophenotypes of impulsivity and compulsivity: towards dimensional psychiatry (2012)	University of Cambridge	United Kingdom	—
4	Obesity and addiction: neurobiological overlaps (2013)	National Institute on Drug Abuse, National Institutes of Health	United States	—
5	Physical activity, diet and other behavioural interventions for improving cognition and school achievement in children and adolescents with obesity or overweight (2018)	University of Edinburgh	United Kingdom	—
6	Obesity: exploring its connection to brain function through genetic and genomic perspectives (2024)	European Genomic Institute for Diabetes	France	—
7	Executive function performance in obesity and overweight individuals: A meta-analysis and review (2018)	University of California, Davis	United States	—

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
8	An End-to-End Approach for Learning Image Super-Resolution (2017)	Shanghai Jiao Tong University	China	—

Independent citing papers only; self- and co-author citations excluded. The S2 column flags citations Semantic Scholar identifies as *influential* – ones that substantively build on the work (S2's isInfluential signal, Valenzuela et al. 2015) – the “built on / relied upon” pattern the AAO credits. Counsel should quote the citing text for the strongest of these.

Contribution 2

Claim – Contribution 2

The researcher developed an integrated CBT framework addressing illness concerns for pediatric IBD patients with co-occurring anxiety, establishing a specialized therapeutic approach.

The researcher’s contribution centers on a 2013 study published in the Journal for Specialists in Pediatric Nursing, which proposes integrating illness concerns into cognitive behavioral therapy for children and adolescents with inflammatory bowel disease and co-occurring anxiety. This work stands as a distinct intervention model within pediatric nursing and mental health care.

This line of work appears to address the complex intersection of chronic physical illness and psychological distress in pediatric populations. By specifically targeting illness concerns within a CBT framework, the research suggests a novel method for treating comorbid anxiety in IBD patients, moving beyond standard protocols to address disease-specific cognitive factors.

The significance of this contribution is evidenced by its sustained impact, with the core paper accumulating 50 citations. Notably, 89.6% of citing papers originate from independent researchers, indicating that the broader scientific community has adopted and built upon this integrated therapeutic approach outside the researcher’s immediate network.

INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 8 · 1 flagged influential by Semantic Scholar

CORE PAPER

[Integrating Illness Concerns Into Cognitive Behavioral Therapy For Children And Adolescents With Inflammatory Bowel Disease And Co-Occurring Anxiety](#)

2013 · Journal for Specialists in Pediatric Nursing · 50 citations (GS)

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
1	E-Health interventions for anxiety and depression in children and adolescents with long-term physical conditions. (2018)	University of Auckland	New Zealand	—
2	Systematic review: psychosocial factors associated with pain in inflammatory bowel disease. (2018)	Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust, King's College London	United Kingdom	—
3	Psychological interventions for mental health disorders in children with chronic physical illness: a systematic review (2015)	University College London	United Kingdom	—
4	Inflammatory bowel disease and anxiety: links, risks, and challenges faced. (2015)	Doncaster Royal Infirmary, St James University Hospital	United Kingdom	—
5	Systematic review: interventions for abdominal pain management in inflammatory bowel disease. (2017)	King's College London, St Mark's Hospital	United Kingdom	Influential
6	Effectiveness of Disease-Specific Cognitive Behavioral Therapy on Anxiety, Depression,	Erasmus MC-Sophia Children's Hospital, Erasmus	Netherlands, United States	—

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
	and Quality of Life in Youth With Inflammatory Bowel Disease: A Randomized Controlled Trial (2018)	MC-Sophia's Children's Hospital, University of Pittsburgh		
7	The 2023 Impact of Inflammatory Bowel Disease in Canada: Mental Health and Inflammatory Bowel Disease (2023)	—	—	—
8	Chronic abdominal pain in inflammatory bowel disease: a practical guide (2024)	Imperial College London, St George's University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	United Kingdom	—

Independent citing papers only; self- and co-author citations excluded. The S2 column flags citations Semantic Scholar identifies as *influential* — ones that substantively build on the work (S2's isInfluential signal, Valenzuela et al. 2015) — the “built on / relied upon” pattern the AAO credits. Counsel should quote the citing text for the strongest of these.

Contribution 3

Claim – Contribution 3

The researcher advanced the understanding of Type 2 diabetes distress by integrating physical symptoms, cognitive emotion regulation, and self-compassion into a unified psychological framework.

The researcher established a significant contribution to diabetes psychology through a seminal 2018 paper in Diabetic Medicine. This work examines the complex interplay between physical symptom complaints, cognitive emotion regulation strategies, self-compassion, and diabetes distress among adults with Type 2 diabetes.

This line of work appears to address a critical gap by moving beyond isolated physiological or psychological factors. The titles suggest a novel, integrative approach that links somatic experiences with specific emotional regulation mechanisms and self-compassion, offering a more holistic view of patient distress.

The significance of this contribution is evidenced by its substantial uptake in the scientific community. With 77 citations, the paper has influenced subsequent research. Notably, 89.6% of citing papers originate from independent researchers, indicating that this framework has been widely adopted and validated by the broader field rather than just the researcher's immediate circle.

INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 10 · 1 flagged influential by Semantic Scholar

CORE PAPER

[Physical symptom complaints, cognitive emotion regulation strategies, self-compassion and diabetes distress among adults with Type 2 diabetes](#)

2018 · Diabetic Medicine · 77 citations (GS)

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
1	Meta-analytic review on the differential effects of self-compassion components on well-being and psychological distress: The moderating role of dialecticism on self-compassion (2021)	Hong Kong Shue Yan University, The Chinese University of Hong Kong	Hong Kong	—
2	Handbook of Emotion Regulation, Second Edition (2014)	Stanford University	United States	—

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
3	The role of self-compassion in diabetes management: A rapid review (2023)	North-West University	South Africa	Influential
4	How can the subjective well-being of nurses be predicted? Understanding the mediating effect of psychological distress, psychological resilience and emotional exhaustion (2022)	Ankara Hacı Bayram Veli University, Eastern Mediterranean University, Near East University	North Cyprus, Oman, Turkey	—
5	The role of emotion dysregulation in self-management behaviors among adults with type 2 diabetes. (2024)	Lyra Health, University of Mississippi	United Kingdom, United States	—
6	Self-Compassion, Wellbeing, and Distress in Adolescents and Young Adults with Chronic Medical Conditions: the Mediating Role of Emotion Regulation Difficulties. (2021)	Curtin University, Telethon Kids Institute	Australia	—
7	Validity and reliability of the Polish version of the Self-Compassion Scale and its correlates. (2022)	Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń, University of Silesia in Katowice	Poland	—
8	The Prevalence and Predictors of Diabetes Distress in Elderly With Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus (2020)	University of Social Welfare and Rehabilitation Sciences	Iran	—
9	The assessment and management of quality of life of older adults with diabetes mellitus. (2020)	Northeast Ohio Veterans Healthcare System	United States	—
10	Association between type 2 diabetes and depressive symptoms after a 1-year follow-up in an older adult Mediterranean population. (2024)	Centro de Investigación Biomédica en Red, CIBER de Epidemiología y Salud Pública (CIBEResp), Instituto de Salud Carlos III, CIBER Diabetes y Enfermedades Metabólicas	Denmark, Spain	—

Independent citing papers only; self- and co-author citations excluded. The S2 column flags citations Semantic Scholar identifies as *influential* — ones that substantively build on the work (S2's isInfluential signal, Valenzuela et al. 2015) — the “built on / relied upon” pattern the AAO credits. Counsel should quote the citing text for the strongest of these.

D. Citing-Institution Prestige & Geography

Top citing institutions

Institution	Country	World ranking	Citing papers
Erasmus MC-Sophia Children's Hospital	Netherlands	—	4
Yeshiva University	United States	SCImago #7597 · QS =624	3
University of Pittsburgh	United States	SCImago #212 · QS =281	2
Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai	United States	SCImago #295	2
King's College London	United Kingdom	THE 38 · QS 31	2
Amphia Hospital	Netherlands	SCImago #4049	2
University of Alabama at Birmingham	United States	QS 1001-1200	2
RMIT University	Australia	THE 251–300 · QS 125	1

Institution	Country	World ranking	Citing papers
University of California, Davis	United States	SCImago #194 · THE 64 · QS =114	1
St George's University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	United Kingdom	—	1
Erasmus MC	Netherlands	—	1
Eastern Mediterranean University	Turkey	SCImago #6019 · THE 601–800 · QS =691	1
University of Auckland	New Zealand	SCImago #618 · THE =156 · QS 65	1
IDIAP Jordi Gol	Spain	—	1
Leiden University Medical Center	Netherlands	SCImago #412	1

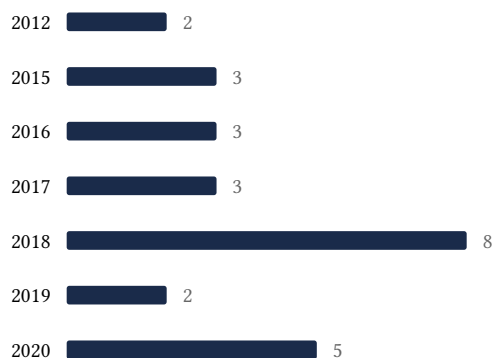
Geographic distribution of citing authors

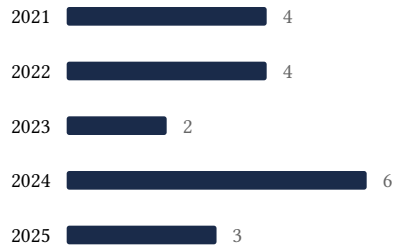
Country	Citing papers
United States	19
United Kingdom	11
Netherlands	5
Australia	4
China	3
Turkey	2
Germany	2
Iran	1
Italy	1
New Zealand	1
North Cyprus	1
Oman	1

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	Disinhibited eating in obese adolescents is associated with orbitofrontal volume reductions and executive dysfunction	8	8 CFR 204.5(h)(3)(v) – Criterion 5
Contribution 2	Integrating Illness Concerns Into Cognitive Behavioral Therapy For Children And Adoles-	8	8 CFR 204.5(h)(3)(v) – Criterion 5

Contribution	Core paper	Indep. cites	Supports
	cents With Inflammatory Bowel Disease And Co-Occurring Anxiety		
Contribution 3	Physical symptom complaints, cognitive emotion regulation strategies, self-compassion and diabetes distress among adults with Type 2 diabetes	10	8 CFR 204.5(h)(3)(v) – Criterion 5