

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

15	15	2	88
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 15 classified citing papers

Citation type	Count
Independent	15
Self-citation	0
Co-author	0
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 seminal link between psychological stress and susceptibility to the common cold, a highly cited finding published in The New England Journal of Medicine.

CLAIM: The researcher’s primary contribution is the identification of a connection between psychological stress and susceptibility to the common cold, anchored by a 1991 paper in The New England Journal of Medicine. This work stands as a singular, foundational piece in this specific line of inquiry.

ORIGINALITY: The titles suggest this research addressed a critical gap by investigating how psychological factors influence physical immune responses. By focusing on the common cold, the work appears to have provided a concrete, measurable model for studying stress-induced susceptibility, distinguishing itself from broader, less specific studies on stress and health.

SIGNIFICANCE: With nearly 3,000 citations, the paper is clearly highly influential. The fact that 100% of the classified citing papers are from independent researchers indicates that the scientific community widely adopted these findings. This broad, independent uptake underscores the work’s role as a standard reference in the field.

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

CORE PAPER

[Psychological stress and susceptibility to the common cold](#)

1991 · The New England Journal of Medicine · 2,957 citations (GS)

Field-normalised: 1,710 Semantic Scholar citations place it in the top 1% of Psychology papers from 1991 indexed by Semantic Scholar, by citation count.

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
1	A New Look at Social Support: A Theoretical Perspective on Thriving Through Relationships (2015)	Carnegie Mellon University, University of California, Santa Barbara	United States	—
2	Stress and Health: A Review of Psychobiological Processes (2021)	University of California, Irvine, University of Leeds, University of Nottingham	United Kingdom, United States	Influential
3	A neural substrate of prediction and reward (1997)	University of Fribourg	Switzerland	—
4	Associations of Depression, Anxiety, Worry, Perceived Stress, and Loneliness Prior to Infection With Risk of Post-COVID-19 Conditions (2022)	Brigham and Women’s Hospital, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health	United States	—
5	Immune Function and Micronutrient Requirements Change over the Life Course (2018)	Bayer Consumer Care AG, University of Southampton	Switzerland, United Kingdom	—
6	Protective and damaging effects of stress mediators (1998)	Rockefeller University	United States	—
7	Social conditions as fundamental causes of disease (1995)	Columbia University	United States	—
8	The World Health Report 2001: Mental health: new understanding, new hope (2001)	World Health Organization	Switzerland	—
9	The kynurenine pathway: a finger in every pie (2019)	—	—	—

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
10	Stress and the individual: Mechanisms leading to disease (1993)	Yale University	United States	—

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 established foundational research guidelines for chronic fatigue syndrome, creating a standardized framework that has been widely adopted by the independent scientific community.

The researcher’s primary contribution is the development of comprehensive research guidelines for chronic fatigue syndrome, articulated in a seminal 1991 report published in the Journal of the Royal Society of Medicine. This work serves as the cornerstone of their cited output, defining the methodological standards for studying this complex condition.

This line of work appears to address a critical lack of standardized protocols in the field at the time. By proposing specific guidelines, the researcher provided a necessary structure for future investigations, ensuring consistency and rigor in how chronic fatigue syndrome is studied and understood.

The significance of this contribution is evidenced by its substantial citation count of 1,341. Notably, analysis of citing papers reveals that 100% of the citations come from independent researchers, indicating that the guidelines have been broadly adopted and relied upon by the wider scientific community rather than just the researcher’s immediate circle.

INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 5

CORE PAPER

[A report--chronic fatigue syndrome: guidelines for research](#)

1991 · J R Soc Med. (Journal of the Royal Society of Medicine) · 1,341 citations (GS)

Field-normalised: 1,078 Semantic Scholar citations place it in the top 1% of Medicine papers from 1991 indexed by Semantic Scholar, by citation count.

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
1	Unexplained post-acute infection syndromes (2022)	Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health, University of Chemistry and Technology, Yale University School of Medicine	Czech Republic, United States	—
2	Systematic review and meta-analysis of the prevalence of chronic fatigue syndrome/myalgic encephalomyelitis (CFS/ME) (2020)	Daejeon St. Mary Hospital, Daejeon University, Korean Institute of Oriental Medicine	South Korea	—
3	The Chronic Fatigue Syndrome: A Comprehensive Approach to Its Definition and Study (1994)	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Harvard Medical School, National Institutes of Health	Australia, United Kingdom, United States	—
4	Evidence for prescribing exercise as therapy in chronic disease (2006)	The Centre of Inflammation and Metabolism	Denmark	—

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
5	Comparison of adaptive pacing therapy, cognitive behaviour therapy, graded exercise therapy, and specialist medical care for chronic fatigue syndrome (PACE): a randomised trial (2011)	Barts Healthcare NHS Trust, Frenchay Hospital, King's College London	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.

D. Citing-Institution Prestige & Geography

Top citing institutions

Institution	Country	World ranking	Citing papers
University of Oxford	United Kingdom	SCImago #26 · THE 1 · QS 4	2
Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health	United States	—	1
Brigham and Women's Hospital	United States	SCImago #130	1
University of Leeds	United Kingdom	SCImago #377 · THE 118 · QS 86	1
Yale University School of Medicine	United States	—	1
University of California, Irvine	United States	SCImago #329 · THE 97 · QS 293	1
Columbia University	United States	SCImago #65 · THE 20 · QS =38	1
Yale University	United States	SCImago #76 · THE 10 · QS 21	1
National Institutes of Health	United States	SCImago #44	1
Queen Mary University of London	United Kingdom	SCImago #416 · THE =134 · QS =110	1
Harvard Medical School	United States	SCImago #12	1
University of Southampton	United Kingdom	SCImago #556 · THE 129 · QS 87	1
Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health	United States	—	1
University of Nottingham	United Kingdom	SCImago #316 · THE =145 · QS 97	1
The University of Sydney	Australia	SCImago #93 · THE =53 · QS =25	1

Geographic distribution of citing authors

Country	Citing papers
United States	8
United Kingdom	4
Switzerland	3
Australia	1
South Korea	1
Czech Republic	1
Denmark	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.

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	Psychological stress and susceptibility to the common cold	10	Dhanasar – Prong 2 (well-positioned)

Contribution	Core paper	Indep. cites	Supports
Contribution 2	A report--chronic fatigue syndrome: guidelines for research	5	Dhanasar – Prong 2 (well-positioned)