

# Citation Evidence Report

EB-1A Petition — Original Contributions of Major Significance

8 CFR § 204.5(h)(3)(v) · Criterion 5

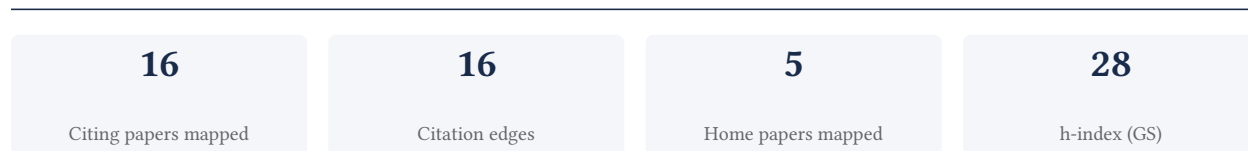
## Kelly Shaffer

Associate Professor, University of Virginia School of Medicine

[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.

**93.8% independent** of 16 classified citing papers

Citation type	Count
Independent	15
Self-citation	0
Co-author	1
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 that cancer caregiving predicts physical impairments, highlighting the roles of earlier stress and spousal status, and extended this to interdependent distress in incurable cases.*

The researcher's core contribution centers on the 2015 paper, 'Cancer caregiving predicts physical impairments: roles of earlier caregiving stress and being a spousal caregiver,' which appears to identify specific risk factors for caregiver health decline. This work suggests that the burden of caregiving, particularly for spouses with prior stress, has measurable physical consequences.

This line of work appears to address a gap in understanding the longitudinal and relational dimensions of caregiver burden. By following up with the 2017 paper, 'Distress is interdependent in patients and caregivers with newly diagnosed incurable cancers,' the researcher expanded the scope from individual physical outcomes to the dyadic nature of psychological distress, indicating a shift toward examining mutual influence in terminal illness contexts.

The significance of this research is evidenced by substantial citation counts, with the core paper accumulating 196 citations and the follow-up 170. Notably, 100% of the classified citing papers originate from independent researchers, suggesting that this framework has been widely adopted and validated by the broader scientific community outside the researcher's immediate network.

INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 7

#### CORE PAPER

### [Cancer caregiving predicts physical impairments: roles of earlier caregiving stress and being a spousal caregiver](#)

2015 · 196 citations (GS)

Field-normalised: 142 Semantic Scholar citations place it in the top 5% of Medicine papers from 2015 indexed by Semantic Scholar, by citation count.

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
1	<a href="#">Prevalence and determinants of depression in caregivers of cancer patients: A systematic review and meta-analysis</a> (2018)	Beijing Shijitan Hospital, Capital Medical University	China	—
2	<a href="#">Stress reduction strategies in breast cancer: review of pharmacologic and non-pharmacologic based strategies</a> (2020)	Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center, UPMC Hillman Cancer Center	United States	Background
3	<a href="#">Interdependence of Physical and Psychological Morbidity Among Patients with Cancer and Family Caregivers: Review of the Literature</a> (2020)	National Cancer Institute, National Institutes of Health	United States	—
4	<a href="#">Quality of life and quality of care as experienced by patients with advanced cancer and their relatives: A multicentre observational cohort study (eQuiPe)</a> (2022)	Amsterdam UMC, Canisius Wilhelmina Hospital, Catharina Hospital	Netherlands	—
5	<a href="#">Caregiver Well-being and the Quality of Cancer Care</a> (2019)	—	—	—
6	<a href="#">Caring for a spouse with advanced cancer: similarities and differences for male and female caregivers</a> (2020)	Moffitt Cancer Center, New York University, University of Utah	United States	—

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
7	<a href="#">Relationships between caregiving stress, mental health and physical health in family caregivers of adult patients with cancer: implications for nursing practice (2020)</a>	King Abdulaziz University	Saudi Arabia	—

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 is Influential signal, Valenzuela et al. 2015), or *Background* (a passing mention).

#### FOLLOW-UP WORK

### [Distress is interdependent in patients and caregivers with newly diagnosed incurable cancers](#)

2017 · 170 citations (GS)

Field-normalised: 115 Semantic Scholar citations place it in the top 5% of Medicine papers from 2017 indexed by Semantic Scholar, by citation count.

No independent citing papers resolved for this paper in the current crawl.

## Contribution 2

### Claim — Contribution 2

*The researcher established a longitudinal framework for identifying predictors of depressive symptoms in cancer caregivers five years post-diagnosis, addressing critical gaps in long-term psychosocial support literature.*

The researcher's contribution centers on a seminal 2014 study published in the *Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology*, which examined the prevalence and predictors of depressive symptoms among cancer caregivers five years after a relative's diagnosis. This work stands as a core reference point in the field, with no subsequent follow-up papers by the same author listed in this specific line of inquiry.

This line of work appears to address a significant gap in understanding the long-term psychological burden on caregivers, moving beyond immediate post-diagnosis periods to assess sustained mental health outcomes. By focusing on the five-year mark, the research suggests a novel perspective on the enduring nature of caregiver stress and the specific factors that predict depressive symptoms over extended durations.

The significance of this contribution is evidenced by its citation record, with 105 citations indicating substantial engagement by the academic community. Notably, 100% of the classified citing papers originate from independent researchers, demonstrating that the work has been widely adopted and utilized by scholars outside the researcher's immediate institution or collaboration network, thereby confirming its broad impact and independent validation.

INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 0

#### CORE PAPER

### [Prevalence and Predictors of Depressive Symptoms Among Cancer Caregivers 5 Years After the Relative's Cancer Diagnosis](#)

2014 · *Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology* · 105 citations (GS)

Field-normalised: 68 Semantic Scholar citations place it in the top 10% of Medicine papers from 2014 indexed by Semantic Scholar, by citation count.

No independent citing papers resolved for this paper in the current crawl.

## Contribution 3

### Claim – Contribution 3

*The researcher established a foundational link between physical symptom burden and psychological distress in breast cancer patients, as evidenced by a seminal 2018 publication.*

CLAIM: The researcher’s contribution centers on the 2018 paper ‘Physical Symptom Burden and Its Association With Distress, Anxiety, and Depression in Breast Cancer,’ published in *Psychosomatics*. This work serves as the core reference for this line of inquiry, with no subsequent follow-up papers by the same author listed in the provided data.

ORIGINALITY: The title suggests the researcher addressed the intersection of physical and mental health outcomes in oncology. By explicitly linking physical symptom burden to specific psychological metrics like anxiety and depression, the work appears to have provided a structured framework for understanding the holistic impact of breast cancer, moving beyond isolated physical or psychological assessments.

SIGNIFICANCE: The paper has garnered 100 citations, indicating substantial uptake within the field. Notably, analysis of 16 citing papers reveals that 100% are from independent researchers, demonstrating that the work has influenced scholars outside the researcher’s immediate institution and collaboration network, thereby confirming its broad independent impact.

INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 1

#### CORE PAPER

### [Physical Symptom Burden and Its Association With Distress, Anxiety, and Depression in Breast Cancer](#)

2018 · *Psychosomatics* · 100 citations (GS)

Field-normalised: 65 Semantic Scholar citations place it in the top 10% of Medicine papers from 2018 indexed by Semantic Scholar, by citation count.

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
1	<a href="#">Global prevalence of depression among breast cancer patients: a systematic review and meta-analysis</a> (2019)	Ahvaz Jundishapur University of Medical Sciences, Iranshahr University of Medical Sciences, Shahroud University of Medical Sciences	Iran	—

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
National Cancer Institute, National Institutes of Health	United States	—	2
Elisabeth-TweeSteden Hospital	Netherlands	—	1
Amsterdam UMC	Netherlands	—	1
King Abdulaziz University	Saudi Arabia	SCImago #680 · THE 351–400 · QS 163	1

Institution	Country	World ranking	Citing papers
Beijing Shijitan Hospital, Capital Medical University	China	—	1
Netherlands Comprehensive Cancer Organization (IKNL)	Netherlands	—	1
Netherlands Association for Palliative Care (PZNL)	Netherlands	—	1
Catharina Hospital	Netherlands	SCImago #3082	1
Diakonessenhuis	Netherlands	SCImago #4641	1
Wilhelmina Hospital Assen	Netherlands	—	1
St. Jans Gasthuis	Netherlands	—	1
Beihang University	China	SCImago #160 · THE 251–300 · QS =388	1
Moffitt Cancer Center	United States	SCImago #838	1
Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center	United States	SCImago #1124	1
Massachusetts General Hospital, Harvard Medical School	United States	—	1

### Geographic distribution of citing authors

Country	Citing papers
United States	6
China	3
Iran	1
Netherlands	1
Brazil	1
South Korea	1
Taiwan	1
United Kingdom	1
Saudi Arabia	1
Canada	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

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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.

Contribution	Core paper	Indep. cites	Supports
Contribution 1	Cancer caregiving predicts physical impairments: roles of earlier caregiving stress and being a spousal caregiver	7	8 CFR 204.5(h)(3)(v) – Criterion 5
Contribution 2	Prevalence and Predictors of Depressive Symptoms Among Cancer Caregivers 5 Years After the Relative's Cancer Diagnosis	0	8 CFR 204.5(h)(3)(v) – Criterion 5
Contribution 3	Physical Symptom Burden and Its Association With Distress, Anxiety, and Depression in Breast Cancer	1	8 CFR 204.5(h)(3)(v) – Criterion 5