



Research in Action

Welcome to the second edition of the Global Injury Group newsletter. Over the past few months we've continued to strengthen collaborations across our partner countries, welcomed new researchers, and progressed several exciting studies aimed at improving musculoskeletal injury care globally.

TOP NEWS

Work Package 2, Musculoskeletal Injury and Polytrauma (MAP) Africa Study, is underway:

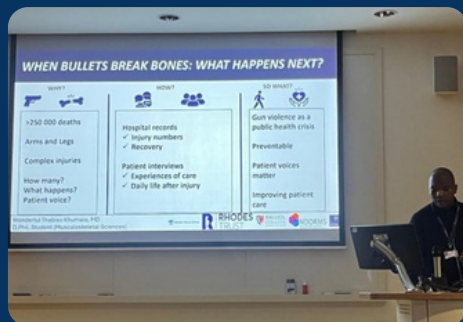
- First sampling window concludes in South Africa (SA). Data on **2797 patients with priority fractures** collected across **47 hospitals**, with representation from all **9 SA provinces**.
- First sampling window concludes in Tanzania (TZ). Data on **956 patients with priority fractures** collected across **27 hospitals**.
- Malawi (MW) to start collecting data soon.

Work Package 3a, Service Assessment of Fracture & Injury Care in Africa (SAFARI), is underway:

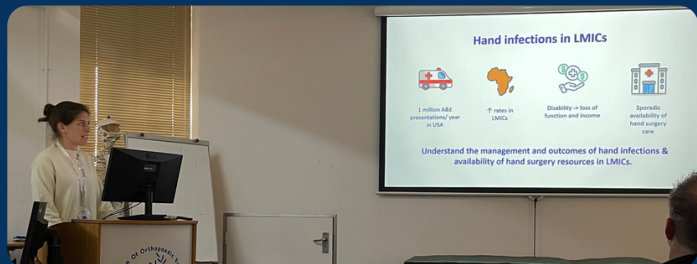
- **54** surveys completed across SA and TZ
- MW to start collecting data soon.

Congratulations to our students on their achievements;

- Dr Wonderful Khumalo (GIG PhD Candidate) receives First Place for his PhD Overview Presentation at the Botnar Institute Student Symposium (10/06/2026) (pictured below).



- Dr Abigail Shaw presents her PhD research and completes patient recruitment for her PhD – 210 patients (pictured below).



SUMMARY NUMBERS

- 4** partner countries (Malawi, South Africa, Tanzania and UK) conducting research
- 70+** hospitals engaged
- 600+** international collaborators contributing to research outputs
- 5** publications to date
- 6** (4 PhD and 2 MSc) students under supervision
- 2** data sets completed, **2** ongoing
(Completed: WP1: Bibliometric Analysis, WP1: Modified Delphi (POINT) Study; Ongoing: WP2: MAP Africa Sampling Window 1 in SA and TZ)

RECENT ACTIVITIES



Team Tanzania, from left to right Obedi Emmanuel, Dr George Njambilo, Professor Billy Haonga and Dorkasi Mwakawanga, meet to discuss the progress of the Global Injury projects



Muhimbili Orthopaedic Institute (MOI) Emergency Department; a National referral hospital in Tanzania where most musculoskeletal injury cases are managed. As one of the facilities involved in mapping the burden of long bone fractures, it was identified as the hospital managing the highest number of patients with long bone fractures.

UPCOMING CONFERENCES

- Presentation of findings from the Bibliometric Analysis and Delphi Study at the South African Orthopaedic Association Congress (31 August – 3 September 2026)
- Country Leads will meet in Lilongwe, Malawi, during the COSECSA Annual Scientific Conference to discuss project progress and future collaboration (3–4 December 2026)

Follow our research updates on the [Global Injury website](#), [BlueSky](#) and [Instagram](#)



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CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT:

Research Capacity Building

- **Abigail Shaw** has completed recruitment with 210 participants enrolled in her PhD study. Follow-ups will be concluded by the end of September 2026. Abby also presented her systematic review on hand and wrist infections in LMICs remotely at the European Hand Surgery Congress in Basel, Switzerland.
- **Maureen Sabawo** is registered with UCT and refining her proposal with supervisors. She recently completed qualitative research training through LSTM.
- **Wonderful Khumalo** is finalising the ethics application for his research and completing a systematic review. He is also undertaking Oxford's FoSSA statistics course.
- **Wilhelm Hansen** is registered with UCT and launched a national survey on infection control practices in SA orthopaedic surgery.
- **Prudence Mushayavanhu** is completing ethical applications for his MSc study.
- **George Njambilo** has completed registration for his PhD and is drafting his proposal.

Community Engagement

- Community Engagement and Involvement (CEI) activities held at Groote Schuur Hospital, South Africa to explore the feasibility of the SIMBA trial with patients who have sustained open lower limb fractures (29 July 2026).



Dr Robyn Waters (SA Project Coordinator and Senior Researcher, middle) and Mrs Nosipho Mncwabe (Country Nurse Care Lead, right) discussing the lived experience of a patient who sustained an open fracture following a pedestrian-vehicle collision.

(Photograph published with consent)

GIG WORK PACKAGE UPDATES:

ACTIVE STUDIES:



Work Package 2 Study Summary:

An observational snapshot study to quantify the burden of upper- and lower-limb long-bone shaft fractures (femur, tibia, forearm, humeral shaft) and ankle fractures across Malawi, South Africa, and Tanzania.



Work Package 3a Study Summary:

An assessment of service availability and readiness of healthcare facilities for providing musculoskeletal injury care in Malawi, South Africa, and Tanzania.



Work Package 3b Study Summary:

An ethnographic study exploring fracture care delivery in Malawi, South Africa and Tanzania to understand care pathways, identify barriers and facilitators to service delivery, and patient and caregiver priorities.



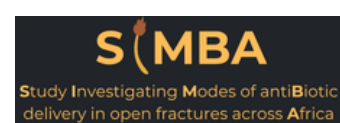
Work Package 4 Study Summary:

A prospective cohort study in adults with upper and lower limb long bone shaft fractures (femur, tibia, forearm, humeral shaft) and ankle fractures.

FUTURE STUDIES:

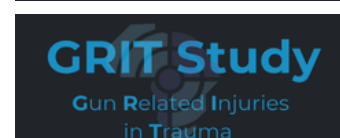
Progress:

- Patient engagement for study design underway
- Protocol, study documents and case report forms design underway.
- Next step: Sponsor and ethics approvals



Work Package 5 Study Summary:

A pragmatic, multicentre randomised feasibility trial comparing oral versus intravenous prophylactic antibiotics for open fractures across in Malawi, South Africa and Tanzania.



Study Summary:

A multicentre randomised feasibility trial in South Africa comparing oral versus intravenous prophylactic antibiotics for gunshot fracture care.

Progress:

- SA: Sampling Window 1 concluded (30 May 2026). Data on 2797 patients with priority fractures collected across 47 hospitals in all 9 SA provinces. Sampling Window 2 started 3rd Aug 2026.
- TZ: Sampling Window 1 concluded (30 June 2026). Data on 956 patients with priority fractures collected across 27 hospitals.
- MW: Data collection expected to start in Sept 2026.

Progress:

- SA & TZ: 54 surveys completed.
- MW: Data collection expected to start in Sept 2026.

Progress:

- SA & TZ: Ethics in place. Recruitment of Qualitative Health Researcher and fieldwork preparation tasks underway
- MW: Ethics application and preparation for recruitment of qualitative researcher in progress

Progress:

- UK: Ethics application submitted to Oxford Tropical Research Ethics Committee (OXTREC) July 2026
- SA: Protocol submitted to Surgical Departmental Research Committee (SDRC) at the University of Cape Town (Accepted 20 July 2026)
- TZ & MW: Country specific protocol in progress ahead of ethical approvals.

GET INVOLVED AND IN TOUCH

We welcome **collaborators** who are interested in musculoskeletal injury care.

Email the team:



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