

Global Injury Group (GIG) Newsletter

Research in Action

Issue 1 | April 2026



"Welcome to the inaugural edition of the Global Injury Group newsletter.

We are a collaborative, equitable research partnership bringing together colleagues from high-, middle-, and low-income countries, united by a shared goal: improving care of the injured through high-quality research.

Through this quarterly newsletter, we will share updates from our ongoing work, highlight key research insights, and create opportunities for collaboration in musculoskeletal injury care across diverse settings"

Project Leads Dr Linda Chokotho (Malawi) & Associate Professor Simon Graham (United Kingdom)



See all of our collaborators on our [Global Injury Website](#)

OUR RESEARCH FOCUS

Our aim is to strengthen musculoskeletal injury care through collaborative research across **Malawi, South Africa, and Tanzania**. We do this by developing research capacity, determining the burden of injury, assessing healthcare resources for treatment, evaluating patient outcomes, and undertaking multi-centre studies designed to drive meaningful improvements in care.

See Page 2 for our project summaries, outputs and progress to date.

Our group brings together doctors, surgeons, nurses, allied health professionals and researchers across **Malawi, South Africa and Tanzania**, with the aim of growing our collaborative research across Sub-Saharan Africa and other low and middle income countries.



Some of our members met in person in January 2025 to kick off the project.

TOP NEWS



Work Package 1, Priorities & Objectives in Orthopaedic Trauma Research – A Modified Delphi Study (POINT), completed and outputs include two manuscripts accepted by the Bone & Joint Open (see Page 2 for more details).



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

- Training of Principal Investigators of recruiting hospitals completed,
- Data collection underway in South Africa and Tanzania,
- In Malawi, ethics approvals are underway with data collection start date from June 2026.



Work Package 3a, Service Assessment of Fracture & Injury Care in Africa (SAFARI), is underway: Several responses to our survey assessing musculoskeletal injury care availability.



Community Engagement & Involvement (CEI): First meeting held in South Africa (Feb 2026), launching activities for Work Package 4, the Outcomes of a National Evaluation of FRACTURE care across Africa (ONE FRACTURE) study, and providing valuable input to strengthen participant follow-up and support.



Research Capacity Development: 3 doctoral (PhD) and 2 Masters (MSc) students enrolled.

GET INVOLVED AND IN TOUCH

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

Email the team:



ghg-globalinjury@ndorms.ox.ac.uk

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



Research in Action

GIG STUDY UPDATES:

COMPLETED STUDIES:



Work Package 1 Study Summary:

A consensus exercise using a modified Delphi method to identify areas and opportunities to strengthen musculoskeletal injury research capacity across Malawi, South Africa, and Tanzania.

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.

FUTURE STUDIES:

Progress:

- Protocol, study documents and case report forms design underway.
- Next step: Ethical approvals



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.



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.

Outputs:

- A ten-year bibliometric analysis of MSK injury research in Malawi, South Africa, and Tanzania: Published in the March 2026 issue of Bone & Joint Open.
- A Modified Delphi study, Challenges and Barriers to Musculoskeletal Injury Research in Sub-Saharan Africa: accepted in Bone & Joint Open.

Progress:

- Following favourable ethics approval, data collection launched in South Africa (1st March 2026) and Tanzania (1st April 2026)
- 41 hospitals actively collecting fracture data in SA and 24 in Tanzania (as of April 2026)
- Ethics committee review underway in Malawi and data collection expected to start in June 2026.

Progress:

- Ethics approvals & site onboarding underway across multiple centres.

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RECENT ACTIVITIES



Dr Chiku Mpanga (Malawi) giving a research update at the COSECSA Scientific Congress (2025)



Assoc Prof Simon Graham (United Kingdom), Prof Billy Haonga (Tanzania) and Prof Jim Harrison (United Kingdom) in Zurich at the AO Alliance Research Course Planning Meeting (Jan 2026)



Prof Maritz Laubscher (South Africa), sharing our projects at the British Limb Reconstruction Society Meeting (March 2026)

CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT:

Research Capacity Building

- Postgraduate students are actively engaged in research delivery and analysis. Please see their project details on our [website](#) under 'Education'.
- Training sessions on research delivery, data collection and research governance across all work packages completed.

Community Engagement

- First meeting of the CEI representatives in South Africa held in Feb 2026
- CEI activities for the ONE FRACTURE study are underway, with community representatives providing valuable guidance on follow-up methods, study materials, and participant support to improve engagement.

LOOKING AHEAD

In our next edition, we will share early findings from the MAP Africa and SAFARI studies, reflections on conducting collaborative research across our partner countries, and upcoming opportunities for involvement across the Global Injury Group.