

NIHR Global Research Unit on Global Surgery
Office 15, 2nd Floor, Institute of Translational Medicine
Heritage Building, Mindelsohn Way
Birmingham
B15 2TH

16th December 2025
a.a.bhangu@bham.ac.uk

RE: SurgWeek-2 study

Dear colleague,

We are writing to you on behalf of the SurgWeek-2 collaborative, an international surgical research network delivering SurgWeek-2.

The previous SurgWeek study in 2020 collected data on over 140,000 patients from 116 countries and resulted in several peer reviewed publications. Data suggests inequities in access and outcomes from surgery around the world. Approximately 313 million operations are performed globally every year, however high-quality outcome data is available for only a fraction of these. There are estimated to be 50 million adults experiencing at least one post operative complication per year, of whom 3.5 million will die within 30 days of surgery. However, more granular data are needed to explore this.

SurgWeek-2 is an international multi-centre cohort study that aims to assess the global variation in post operative complications. The secondary aims are to assess:

- Global variation in postoperative infective complication and antimicrobial resistance rates.
- Global variation in postoperative mortality and underlying mechanisms
- Global variation in access to and outcomes of minimally invasive and robotic surgery.
- Global variation in the delivery and outcomes of the Bellwether procedures (laparotomy, caesarean delivery and open fracture management)

To achieve the above aims, this study will include all patients undergoing surgery. All hospitals are eligible to participate.

We would be delighted to have your team on board. We foresee this SurgWeek-2 collaboration to be an expansion of the original collaboratives, that have proven to efficiently engage over 1000 hospitals and collect data from more than 100,000 patients. **Data collection is planned to happen for six one-week periods during**





**NIHR Global Health Research Unit on
Global Surgery**

August-October 2026. Hospitals can participate in one to six of the periods. We encourage you to seek your own local approvals and build local teams, involving as many specialties in your hospital as possible.

All the collaborators participating in SurgWeek-2 will be recognised with PubMed-indexed collaborative co-authorship on any resulting papers (example:
[www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(20\)31182-X/fulltext](http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(20)31182-X/fulltext)).

Please address us any queries through surgweek@contacts.bham.ac.uk.

Yours sincerely,

Professor Aneel Bhangu MBChB PhD FRCS
Professor of Global Surgery and Surgical Systems
University of Birmingham, UK

Honorary Consultant Colorectal Surgeon
University Hospitals Birmingham, UK



**UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM**