



# Reflecting on Our Journey and Looking Ahead to 2025

Aneel Bhangu<sup>1</sup>

**Correspondence:** Aneel Bhangu, Editor-in-Chief, Impact Surgery. Email: a.a.bhangu@bham.ac.uk

1. *Editor-in-Chief, Impact Surgery*

**Cite as:** Bhangu, A. (2024). Reflecting on Our Journey and Looking Ahead to 2025. *Impact Surgery*, 1(5), 164. <https://doi.org/10.62463/surgery.98>

As we approach the end of 2024, I am humbled to reflect on the journey of *Impact Surgery*. What began as a bold vision to create a platform for critical discussions in surgery has evolved into a dynamic and influential journal, making significant strides in addressing some of the most pressing issues in global health. As the senior Editor-in-Chief, it is my privilege to share with you our progress, our ongoing commitments, and our exciting plans.

Since our inception, *Impact Surgery* has taken on the mission to tackle the complex and challenging topics that shape the world of surgery. One of our key achievements has been the publication of timely and impactful research on urgent global issues, such as the devastating loss of life in Gaza. These conversations are crucial as we strive to understand the role of surgery in mitigating the human cost of war and violence.

Our commitment to promoting diversity and gender equity in surgery is reflected not only in our published content but also in the diverse composition of our Editorial Advisory Board. This board, comprised of experts from varied backgrounds and specialties, ensures that our journal remains inclusive and representative of the global surgical community.

Our commitment to diversity extends beyond our editorial team to the scope of the research we publish. We are proud to support pilot studies, early-stage research, and global data initiatives that might not yet have the backing of large-scale funding or widespread recognition. Equally, we are identifying, publishing, and supporting large data studies

At *Impact Surgery*, we understand that the journey from research to publication can be challenging, especially for early-career researchers and those from underrepresented regions. That's why we are committed to working closely with our authors, providing guidance

and support to help them develop their papers into high-quality contributions to the field. We are not just a publication; we are a partner in your research journey.

Looking ahead to 2025, we are excited about the opportunities for growth and expansion. As we continue to publish cutting-edge research, we are also exploring the possibility of introducing a publication fee. This step, while necessary to cover the operational costs of maintaining the high standards you expect from us, will be carefully considered to ensure that it does not become a barrier to publication.

Another major milestone on our horizon is our goal to achieve indexing in PubMed, Scopus, and other major databases by 2025. This will not only increase the visibility of the research we publish but also solidify *Impact Surgery's* standing as a leading journal in the field. We are committed to maintaining our rigorous standards and to judging submissions based on the quality of their methodology, rather than the nature of their results. Positive or negative, every well-conducted study has value, and we are here to ensure that your research finds its rightful place in the academic dialogue.

In closing, I want to express my deepest gratitude to our readers, authors, reviewers, and advisory board members. Your support has been instrumental in our success and we look forward to continuing this journey with you. As we prepare for the challenges and opportunities of the coming year, I invite you to submit your work to *Impact Surgery*. Together, let's continue to push the boundaries of surgical knowledge, always with the aim of improving patient outcomes and making better decisions in the operating room. Thank you for being a part of *Impact Surgery*.