

Editorial for the Inaugural Issue of The Orthopaedic Standard

Setting the Standard: A Beginning, Not a Declaration

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Orthopaedics is a discipline built on structure, literally and figuratively. Whether it's the stability of a well-aligned implant or the teachings that pass from mentor to trainee, we are a specialty that values precision, reliability, endurance, and progress. In that spirit, launching a new orthopaedic journal is not a claim of arrival, but a process of construction, one that starts with a clear purpose and grows through meaningful contributions from a community that shares it. This is the inaugural issue of The Orthopaedic Standard. Let's be honest: starting a new journal in a field already filled with long-established, high-impact publications might seem bold, maybe even unnecessary. But there's a reality we can't ignore; **whole regions of the world, and the orthopaedic surgeons working within them, have been consistently underrepresented in the academic conversation.** This isn't because their work lacks value or insight. It's because the traditional editorial frameworks, largely based in high-income countries, often don't give them visibility. Their topics aren't prioritized. Their settings don't fit established templates. Their realities aren't "interesting" unless they mirror those of the most developed healthcare systems. Even when accepted, many of these voices are buried behind paywalls, editorial expectations rooted in very different realities, or styles that leave little room for local context. And yet, the profession is global. The needs, questions, and innovations of orthopaedic surgeons in under-resourced or overlooked environments are not only relevant but essential to understand both how our specialty has developed and where orthopaedics is heading.

That's the role we see for The Orthopaedic Standard. The name isn't a claim of superiority. It is an aspiration, **a standard to build toward**, not one we pretend to have already reached. This journal is intended to be **a platform for honest, grounded, globally relevant orthopaedics**, with a special focus on providing visibility to regions and practitioners who have long been on the margins of academic publishing. This includes research shaped by constraints, practice patterns adapted to scarce resources, and ideas that don't always fit the frameworks of high-income institutions but are nonetheless valid, insightful, and often more innovative than we give credit for.

Bones and Beyond: Why This Theme?

Our inaugural theme, "Bones and Beyond: Orthopaedics in a Changing World", encapsulates the evolving nature of our profession. It invites us to look beyond borders; geographic, cultural, and traditional and to understand orthopaedics in a broader global context. The reality is that clinical practice around the world does not always reflect the highest standards of clinical research. It is often shaped by institutional and geographical policies, resource availability, and the local patient-provider culture. This is what we aim to highlight in the upcoming issues: the disharmony between what should be and what is, and the reasons behind it. The articles in the following issues would try to reflect that breadth including but not limited to:

- A perspective on orthopaedic practice and innovation in low-resource and underrepresented regions, highlighting local challenges and inventive solutions.
- An examination of the realistic availability and clinical application of robotics, AI, and 3D printing in orthopaedic surgery.
- A reflection on global collaborations in orthopaedics, including opportunities and barriers to international partnership.
- Emerging trends in postoperative patient care, with comparisons of real-world data and regional differences in clinical practice.

This mix of insightful, engaging, and practical content sets the tone for what we hope The Orthopaedic Standard will become: a journal that speaks authentically to the realities and diversity of modern orthopaedics worldwide.

An Open Invitation

A journal is only as strong as its contributors and its readership. We invite orthopaedic surgeons, researchers, and thought leaders from around the world to join us in shaping this platform. Whether you're submitting pivotal clinical trials, reviewing significant advances, sharing innovative solutions or offering commentary on daily orthopaedic practice, your voice is essential. The discussions we initiate today will help define what it means to set the standard for tomorrow's orthopaedics. We welcome your best work, your boldest ideas and most careful analyses, to build a publication that genuinely reflects the full breadth of our specialty's dynamic, global landscape. By contributing to The Orthopaedic Standard, you become part of a collective endeavour to refine and elevate orthopaedic care around the globe.