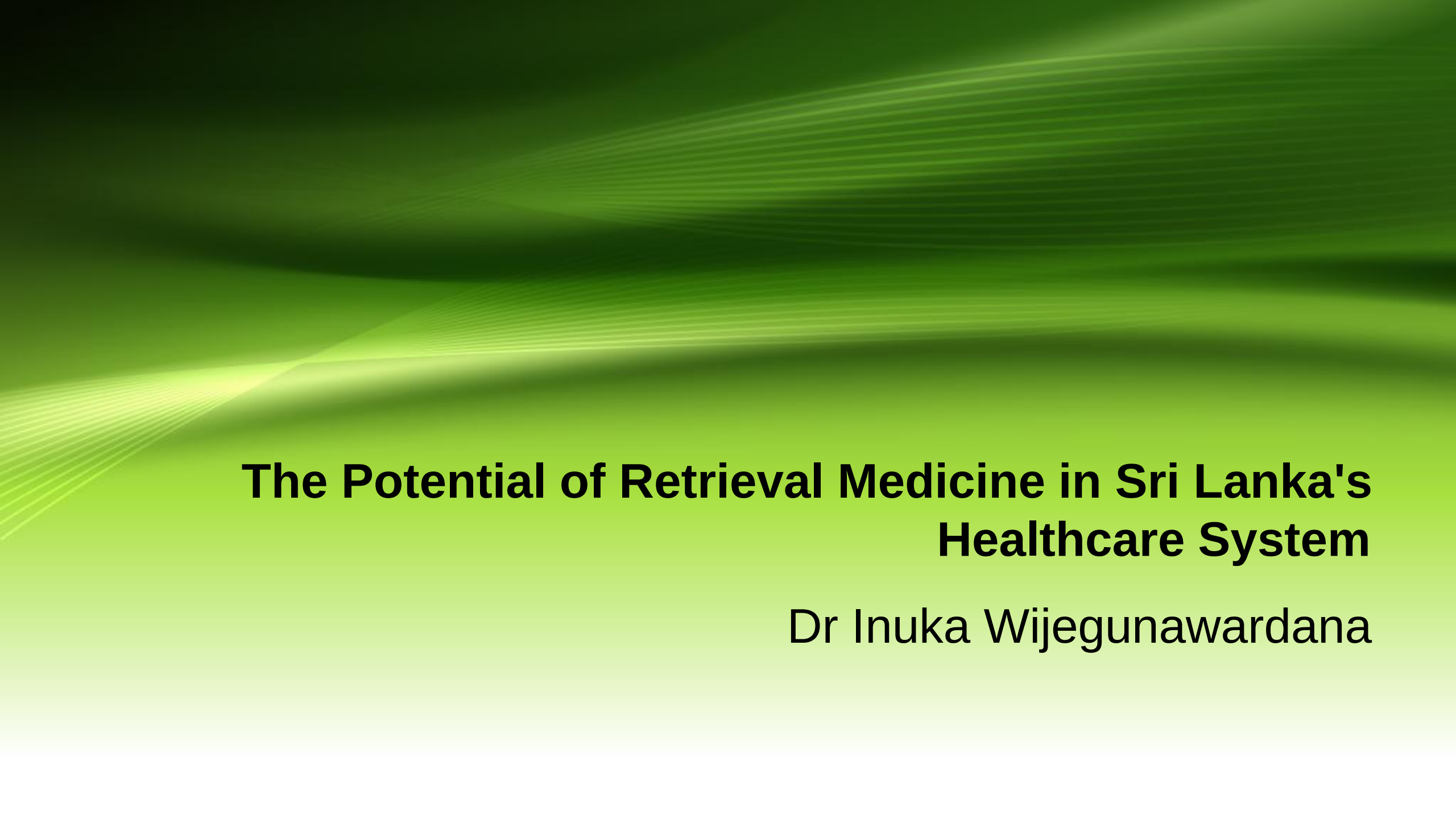


The background is a vibrant green with a gradient from dark green at the top to a lighter green at the bottom. There are several bright, glowing light streaks or rays that sweep across the frame from the left side towards the right, creating a sense of motion and energy.

The Potential of Retrieval Medicine in Sri Lanka's Healthcare System

Dr Inuka Wijegunawardana

- Retrieval medicine is a specialized branch of acute, emergency, and critical care medicine that focuses on providing medical care in the transport environment.
- It involves stabilizing and treating critically ill or injured patients while they are being transferred from one location to another—often from resource-limited or remote settings to advanced healthcare facilities.

Retrival medicine







key features

Transport-based care:

- Delivered in ambulances, helicopters, aircraft, or other retrieval platforms.

Critical and emergency focus:

- Patients are often unstable, undifferentiated, and require urgent intervention.

key features ct

Resource-limited environments:

Practitioners must n independently with limited equipment and support.

Extended duration:

Care may need to be sustained over long transport times.

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- **Multidisciplinary approach:**

Involves coordination between emergency medicine, intensive care, and prehospital care teams

Retrieval medicine in Sri Lanka

pre hospital ambulance is the main mode patients transport in SL

- fire and rescue
- military base - air ambulance
- neonatal retrieval by Lady Ridgeway hospital
- private sector no proper data- only advertisement
- “no well established retrieval medical system in sri lanka”

Retrieval medicine involves several key components

- Team Composition
 - - Medical specialist (often emergency medicine or critical care trained)
 - - Paramedics/EMT
 - - Nurses with critical care transport training
- trained pilot

Communication & Coordination

- - Centralized dispatch and coordination systems
- - Clear communication between retrieval teams, dispatch, and receiving hospital

Transport Platforms

- - Road ambulances equipped for critical care transport
- - Air transport (helicopters, fixed-wing aircraft) for remote areas



Equipment & Medications

- - Portable ventilators, monitors, oxygen supply



Clinical Governance & Protocols

- - Standard operating procedures for retrievals
- - Guidelines for stabilization, transport, and handover

Integrating retrieval medicine could:

Improve Trauma Outcomes:

Timely retrieval and transport to specialized centers can reduce mortality and morbidity in trauma patients.

- Bridge Urban-Rural Gaps
- Enhance access to emergency care for rural populations.

- Optimize Resource Utilization:
- Streamline referrals and transfers, reducing burden on tertiary centers.

- Upskill Local Providers-
- Training local teams in retrieval medicine boosts pre-hospital and emergency care capabilities.

way forward

- how to establishing retrieval medical system -cost vs benifit
- civil - military base approach
- private sector involvemnt
- special situation -Tourist location base - scuba diving / para gliding

Thank you