

**2026 Setting the Pace**  
**Speaker Information Form**



Matthew DeStefano, BSN, RN, CEN



Meagan Geyer, MSN, RN, CEN

**Speaker(s) Biography.**

Matthew DeStefano and Meagan Geyer are both RN Education Specialists for the Emergency Department at Mount Sinai South Nassau. Matthew has been a Registered Nurse for 15+ years and brings a strong background in leadership, staff education, and process improvement. His creativity and IT expertise has made him an instrumental contributor to ED initiatives and the development of BE-SLAMs.

Meagan has been a Registered Nurse for about 10 years and is recognized for her energetic and approachable teaching style. As an RN Education Specialist, Meagan is passionate about supporting nurses through coaching, mentorship, and hands-on learning. She has played a key role in educating staff on BE-SLAMs, helping nurses build confidence in early recognition and response through practical, bedside-focused education.

**2026 NYSENA Setting the Pace Conference Presentation**

**Streamlining Stroke Identification: Merging BE-FAST and S-LAMS into BE-SLAMs**

Mount Sinai South Nassau has traditionally relied on the BE-FAST scale to quickly recognize signs of acute stroke while activating a stroke team. Recently, the new thrombectomy team informed us that they required the S-LAMS (Stroke Los Angeles Motor Scale) tool as well as BE-FAST to further assess stroke severity. To address this, we combined the two assessments into a single, streamlined tool that we called BE-SLAMs.

This hybrid approach preserved the strengths of BE-FAST in rapidly identifying potential strokes while integrating the severity scoring of S-LAMs into the same evaluation.

### **Learning Objectives.**

- Describe the development of BE-SLAMs by combining BEFAST with S-LAMS into one assessment tool.
- Review the escalation process with a positive BE-SLAMs, including Code Stroke, Code LVO, and Code Thrombectomy.
- Identify the key components of the BE-SLAMs framework for staff education.

### **References.**

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- Dassen, S., van Es, A., Roozenbeek, B., van de Graaf, R., Roos, Y., Majoie, C., Ghariq, E., Kruyt, N., Fischer, U., van Oostenbrugge, R., van Zwam, W., & Staals, J. (2025). Time to endovascular treatment and clinical outcome in acute ischemic stroke with M2-segment occlusion. *Journal of the American Heart Association*, 14(22), e043984. <https://doi.org/10.1161/JAHA.125.043984>
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