Summary
The American Heart Association-Midwest Affiliate has received a one-year grant from Genentech to continue and expand Improving Thrombolysis and Door-To-Needle Time for Ischemic Stroke in Chicago, a project that will improve thrombolysis (intravenous tissue plasminogen activator use) and door-to-needle (DTN) times for thrombolysis in acute ischemic stroke patients in Chicago and surrounding areas. The initial award was received in 2013-2014 and has been presented at 3 national conferences.

Project Details
Through the Improving Thrombolysis and Door-To-Needle Time for Ischemic Stroke in Chicago project, the AHA seeks to evaluate innovative strategies to improve the delivery of acute stroke services for Chicago area residents through a combination of public, pre-hospital, and hospital education and quality improvement initiatives. The public health impact of our proposal is significant as it will pave the way for replication of these efforts in other regions and for other diseases that require system organization, timely delivery of care, and public education. We are well-positioned to carry out this broad initiative given our involvement in the development and ongoing oversight of the Chicago stroke system of care, the high level of support from physicians and coordinators at each Primary Stroke Center, uniform data collection tools, and the significant advocacy and quality improvement functions of the AHA Midwest Affiliate.

Through this project, the AHA will implement and evaluate innovative strategies to improve the delivery of stroke services for Chicago area residents through a combination of public, pre-hospital, and hospital education and quality improvement initiatives. The AHA’s Improving Thrombolysis and Door-To-Needle Time for Ischemic Stroke in the Chicago project has three components:

1. Professional education using the AHA’s Target: Stroke Door-To-Needle Initiative at Primary Stroke Centers to improve use of thrombolysis and improve its timely delivery in ischemic stroke patients.
2. Provide EMS education to improve field diagnosis and increase pre-notification of suspected stroke patients being transported to Primary Stroke Centers.
3. Mount a comprehensive multi-lingual education program on stroke awareness for Chicago area residents, targeting at-risk and minority groups specifically, that will result in a greater understanding of stroke symptoms and lead to an increase in 911 calls for stroke.

QUESTS 2.0
QUality Enhancement for The Speedy Thrombolysis in Stroke