Peter L. Saltonstall
President and CEO

Peter L. Saltonstall is the President and CEO of the National Organization for Rare Disorders (NORD). He joined NORD in 2008 after having served for more than 30 years as a senior official in both for-profit and not-for-profit healthcare environments.

Under his leadership, NORD has forged new relationships between the patient community and the Congress, FDA, NIH and Social Security Administration, as well as with drug/device companies and the medical/academic and investment communities. His efforts to build collaborations stems from his view that advances for the rare disease patient can be achieved best through joint efforts.

Peter is also committed to globalization of the rare disease patient community, as diseases do not recognize geographical boundaries and research can be expedited when patients from many countries are involved. He has established collaborative programs with patient communities in Europe and Japan.

Under Peter’s leadership, NORD also has updated and expanded its Patient Assistance Programs, which include assistance to patients in need of medications that they cannot afford; and has recommitted to facilitate research into new therapies and assure access by patients.

Before joining NORD, Peter held senior positions with several major academic medical centers and organizations, including Harvard’s Brigham and Women’s Hospital, Tufts-New England Medical Center and St. Elizabeth’s Medical Center of Boston. He helped launch Harvard Risk Management Foundation’s startup venture, Risk Management Strategies, and the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center’s private equity arm, Strategic Business Initiatives.

In addition, Peter was the co-founder and CEO of SafeCare Systems, LLC, which developed one of the country's first patient safety management systems. He played an active role on Capitol Hill in the development of the Patient Safety Act of 2005, which dramatically improved the reporting of events that adversely affect patients.