Richard J. Umbdenstock became president and chief executive officer of the American Hospital Association (AHA) on January 1, 2007. Previously, he was the elected AHA Board Chair in 2006. The AHA leads, represents and serves more than 5,000 member hospitals, health systems and other health care organizations, and 42,000 individual members.

Mr. Umbdenstock’s career includes experience in hospital administration; health system governance, management and integration; association governance and management; HMO governance; and health care governance consulting. He has written several books and articles for the health care board audience and has authored national survey reports for the AHA and its Health Research and Educational Trust and for the American College of Healthcare Executives.

He received a B.A. degree in Politics in 1972 from Fairfield University (Connecticut) and a master’s degree in Health Services Administration in 1974 from the State University of New York at Stony Brook. He is a Fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives.

Mr. Umbdenstock serves on the boards of the National Quality Forum and Enroll America, and co-chairs the CAQH Provider Council. He also serves on the National Priorities Partnership and on the Center for Transforming Advanced Care Steering Committee.