

## Michael Phelps Dragged Into Doping Speculation

A former Olympic doctor from China has decided to throw [@Michael Phelps](#) and his fourteen gold medals under doping speculations. This was immediately after new swimming sensation of China, Ye Shiwen, was accused by media of doping accusations.

The 16-year-old Shiwen has won two gold medals at the London Olympics (the individual medley at 200 and 400 meters) and has denied using any banned drug. Organizers of the London Olympics also supported her claims and said every one is fair unless proven otherwise. "The West still judges China with an old mentality, and is petty about the progress China makes," the state-run China's Global Times said in an editorial.

A former Olympic doctor says he has always suspected Phelps of using performance enhancing drugs but has kept silent till now due to lack of evidence.

**"I suspect Phelps, but without evidence, I have to recognise that we should be grounded in facts,"** said Dr Chen Zhanghao, who headed the Chinese Olympic medical team in Los Angeles, Seoul, and Barcelona. "The Americans have made many extraordinary performances but without evidence we have kept silent," Dr. Chen revealed in an exclusive interview with Fairfax. He added that China had cleaned up its act in the 1990s and "Once caught, the athlete, coach and sometimes team manager are dismissed." "The Americans are very bad, they do a lot of evil," he said. "But they don't talk about themselves."

Phelps is an American swimmer and holds the all-time records for gold medals (15) and gold medals in individual events (9). The most decorated Olympian of all time with 19 medals, Phelps is the present individual long course world record holder in the 100 meters butterfly, 200 meters butterfly, and 400 meters individual medley and the former long course world record holder in the 200 meters freestyle and 200 meters individual medley. His tally of eight gold medals at the 2008 Beijing Games surpassed the seven-gold performance at Munich in 1972 by Mark Spitz. Michael Phelps won six gold and two bronze at Athens in 2004 and eight gold at Beijing in 2008 and his illustrious career has seen him earning the World Swimmer of the Year Award six times and American Swimmer of the Year Award eight times.

The American swimmer is regularly tested to ensure that his system is clean of [performance enhancing drugs](#) since he is a participant in the US Anti-Doping Agency's "Project Believe" program. He won a silver medal in the 200 meter butterfly and a gold medal in the 4 × 200 meter freestyle relay on July 31, 2012 during the 2012 Summer Olympics in London and surpassed Larisa Latynina to become the all-time record holder for most Olympic medals won.

He was suspended by USA Swimming after the News of the World published a photo of him inhaling from a glass pipe usually used to smoke cannabis.

The swimmer idolized Australian Ian Thorpe as a teenager and was congratulated by Thorpe when Phelps and his teammates captured the gold at the 2008 Summer Olympics in Beijing, "I'm really proud of him not just because he won eight golds. Rather, it's how much he has grown up and matured into a great human being. Never in my life have I been so happy to have been proved wrong. I enjoyed every moment of it." Thorpe added, "I just couldn't envision it happening. And I didn't think he would get all eight, not because Michael couldn't win, but because of the competition. It's been a very tough week to get through. I couldn't do it. You couldn't imagine much closer races. The 4×100 free goes down as one of the all-time great races."

