



**Name in English:** Amy Yuen-Yee Chow

**Name in Chinese:** [周婉儀]

**Name in Pinyin:** Zhōu Wǎnyí

**Gender:** Female

**Birth Year:** 1978

**Birth Place:** San Jose, California

**Current location:** Palo Alto

## First Chinese American Olympic Medal Gymnast

**Profession (s):** Olympic Gymnast, Pediatrics Resident

**Education:** B.S., Biology, 2002, Stanford University; M.D., 2007, Stanford University

### Awards:

1994, U.S. Team Silver Medal, World Team Championships; 1995, Individual Gold Medal – Vault, Pan American Games; 1995, Individual Silver Medal – Uneven Bars, Pan American Games; 1995, Individual Bronze Medal – All-around, Pan American Games; 1996, Individual Silver Medal – Uneven Bars, Atlanta Olympics; 1996, U.S. Team Gold Medal, Atlanta Olympics; 2000, U.S. Team Bronze Medal, Sydney Olympics, 2005, USA Gymnastics Hall of Fame, USA Gymnastics; 2008, U.S. Olympic Hall of Fame, U.S. Olympic Committee

### Contribution (s):

Despite losing her grip and slamming her head on the balance beam during gymnastics trials, Amy Yuen-Yee Chow soldiered on with an ugly red welt above her right eye and went on to win a silver medal on the uneven bars in the 1996 Atlanta Olympics. She was just 18 years old, the first Chinese and Asian American woman to win an Olympic medal in gymnastics. Chow also helped her team, the 1996 Women's Gymnastics Team, win the first gold medal for the U.S. in the Women's Team Competition, earning the famous nickname of the Magnificent Seven for its members.

Dubbed the “Trickster” in the gymnastics world for her ability to perform the most complicated moves with apparent ease and grace, Chow is the first American to perform both the extremely difficult double-twisting Yurchenko vault and the tucked double-double dismount move on uneven bars in international competition. Chow's stellar performance at the Olympics caused two gymnastics moves to be named after her: Chow I (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hWkVwlogHo>) and Chow II. Chow also competed in the 2000 Summer Olympics in Sydney, making it to the all-around finals round. In 2010, as a result of the Chinese women's gymnastics team that competed in Sydney being disqualified because of an underage athlete, the 4<sup>th</sup> place finish of the American team was upgraded to 3<sup>rd</sup> place bronze medal status.

Chow's success was the result years of hard work and training, having begun gymnastics training at three years old. Before the Olympics she has competed and won in scores of national and international competitions, learned to play the piano at an expert level, and participated in other sports such as diving and pole-vaulting. Inspired by the doctor who treated her gym injuries as a child, Chow went on to pursue her childhood dream of becoming a doctor, graduating from Stanford Medical School, and entering pediatric residency at a hospital in Palo Alto.

**External Links:**

[http://www.pdsoros.org/current\\_fellows/index.cfm?yr=2003](http://www.pdsoros.org/current_fellows/index.cfm?yr=2003)

<http://asianweek.com/071996/feature.html>

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amy\\_Chow](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amy_Chow)

<http://news-service.stanford.edu/news/2007/june13/med-gradprofile-061307.html>