

Dear Nation's Capital Swimmers and Families,

My name is Seth Stubblefield, and I am reaching out to you all today as a fellow swimmer, teammate, and lover of all things water. To summarize before I begin, I'm hosting a free swim clinic to anyone who would like to participate for a cause about which I've become very impassioned. I swam for the past 5 years at the University of California, Berkeley, graduating in 2015 and then taking an extra year to train for Rio. I ultimately finished a heartbreaking 3rd in the 100 butterfly at Trials, narrowly missing my dream of becoming an Olympian by a mere 4 one-hundredths of a second. However, as often happens in life, dreams change and priorities shift. I got married to the love of my life in October, and started working at a hospital in DC in August in preparation for medical school. Although I am still swimming, it is in a reduced capacity compared to years past. My primary role this year is in the medical world, particularly the world of orthopaedics, and, even more specifically, the world of osteogenesis imperfecta (OI). My new dream and one of my main priorities now is to be an advocate and voice for kids with this disorder in the larger swimming community.

I became acquainted with OI this year during my job as a research assistant in the department of Orthopedic Surgery and Sports Medicine at Children's National Medical Center. My research primarily focuses on the natural history of OI and connects me with extraordinary families afflicted with this disorder. It's a humbling thing to say that these kids, who present in clinic with multiple fractures, lung diseases, and many, many other ailments, often brighten our days when we should be brightening theirs. They have given me a different perspective on life, and it is my goal to give back to them however I can.

For people with OI, swimming is the most prescribed physical activity treatment option available, and often times is the only physical activity that they can do. As OI significantly affects the bones of these individuals, physical activity is of paramount importance, especially for kids with OI, in order to help build stronger bones into adulthood.

The OI Foundation is a non-profit that helps families with this disorder and sponsors research studies that, hopefully and eventually, will lead to a cure. Because research, especially research that involves multiple physicians and clinics, can be very expensive, organizations like the OIF rely heavily on fundraisers to survive. As fate has it, the primary fundraiser the OIF is putting on this year is called 50,000 lap challenge, which is essentially a swim-a-thon. May 6th through May 13th is OI Awareness Week, and during that week, NCAP is partnering with the OIF to help raise money.

On May 7th, NCAP has graciously allowed me to host a swim clinic toward the end of their senior practice. The practice will be at the Lee District RECenter from 6 to 8:30 am, with the clinic being from 8 to around 9:30 am. I will be inviting OI families in particular, but anyone and everyone is welcome to join. This clinic will be completely free - all I ask is that you consider donating to support this cause. We are assembling a team of elite level swimmers, including my wife, Lauren Harrington Stubblefield, her Georgia teammate, Jordan Mattern, Cassidy Bayer, and other senior NCAP swimmers to lead this clinic, which, again, will be free and open to swimmers of all ages and abilities.

Other supporters and participants of this event include my good friends Ryan Murphy (triple Rio Olympic gold medalist and world record holder), Will Licon (multiple time National Championship winner and American Record Holder), and Michael Andrew (youngest

professional swimmer ever), as well as my old stomping grounds, the City of Plano Swimmers. The Cal and Georgia swim teams are in support of this event, and we are in talks with USA Swimming about making this an organization-wide project.

With your help, we can inch closer to achieving the goal of finding a cure. If you feel so called, I would ask you to please donate to the OI Foundation. Other ways you can help are with social media and community outreach and awareness, traditional "swim-a-thon-esque" fundraising, and encouraging others to join and participate in our cause. I have included a vignette of one of the girls with OI I have been working with throughout this year as well as promotional materials. A link to the NCAP donation web page is listed below, and 100% of the proceeds go to furthering research endeavors and ensuring that people with OI receive the care they desperately need.

Thank you so much for your help. If you have any questions, concerns, or would like to become more involved in this endeavor, please feel free to reach out to me at [stubblefieldseth@gmail.com](mailto:stubblefieldseth@gmail.com). See y'all at the pool!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Seth Stubblefield', with a stylized, cursive script.

Seth Stubblefield, UC Berkeley Class of 2016  
Clinical Research Assistant and Professional Swimmer