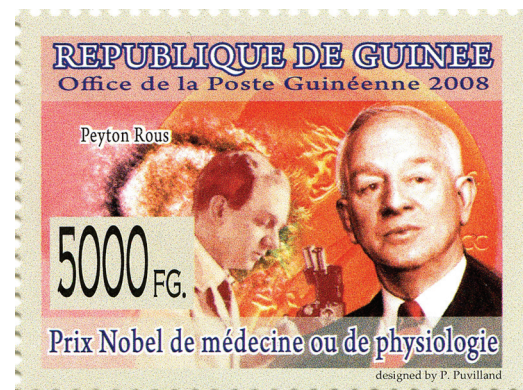




Courtesy of Rockefeller University.



Peyton Rous

Physicist, Nobel Laureate (1879 - 1970)

Born in Texas, Rous received his M.D. from the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine in 1905. After two years as instructor of pathology at the University of Michigan, he took over leadership of the cancer research laboratory at The Rockefeller Institute, begun a few years earlier by the institute's director, SIMON FLEXNER. Soon after, he was able to prove that some tumors in chickens are actually initiated and driven by viruses that determine their forms as well.

In 1915, he began study in physiological pathology, and he did not return to the theme of cancer for 20 years. During that period, he also was occupied with work on blood and the liver and did pioneer research on blood transfusion with J. R. Turner and O. H. Robertson. This led to the establishment in 1917 of the world's first blood bank near the front lines of the Entente Forces in Belgium.

In 1934, Dr. Rous's Rockefeller colleague RICHARD SHOPE asked him to examine a warren of jackrabbits whose "warts" he had definitively shown were caused by a virus. When Dr. Rous confirmed that the warts were benign tumors that had the potential to become cancerous, he returned his full focus to investigating the virus theory of cancer.

In 1915, Rous married Marion Eckford deKay, the daughter of CHARLES AUGUSTUS DEKAY, the founder of the National Arts Club and a member of the Fencing Hall of Fame. They had three daughters: Marion, Ellen and Phoebe. Marion's husband, Alan Hodgkin, received the Nobel Prize for Physiology or Medicine in 1963, three years before Rous received the same award. Phoebe married THOMAS J. WILSON, who became Director of the Harvard University Press.

Rous was a foreign member of The Royal Societies of England and Denmark and of the Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters. He received an Albert Lasker Basic Medical Research Award, a National Medal of Science and a United Nations Prize for Cancer Research.

Rous was sponsored for the Century in 1921 by his father-in-law and remained a member until his death in 1970.