Anastomosis between arteries at the base of the human brain were recognized by several anatomists (e.g., Vesalius, Falloppio, Casserio, Vesling, Wepfer), and identified as communications between the carotid and the vertebrobasilar systems. However, the dissection by the English physician Thomas Willis (1621-1675) permitted to distinguish a complete arterial anastomotic circle, later named after him. It was accurately depicted by his pupil, the architect Christopher Wren, published in Willis’ *Cerebri Anatome*, in 1664, and became the most accepted representation of this vascular structure. Nowadays, the anatomy of this formation can be visualized in vivo with modern neuroimaging techniques, as magnetic resonance angiography, introduced in the 1990s for clinical use (Figure - C). Despite the time, there are not remarkable differences between the representations of this structure.
CONFLICT OF INTEREST

None

REFERENCES

