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Prof El Khoury graduated doctor at the Université Catholique de Louvain (UCL) in 1984.

He trained in cardiac surgery at UCL from 1984 to 1990. He received his Ph.D. in Cardiac Surgery in 1992. Since then, he has performed surgery at Broussais Hospital in Paris and Toronto at General Hospital until 1995.

Prof El Khoury has specialized in heart valve surgery. His scientific interests include the valvuloplasty of the mitral and aortic valves (of which he is one of the pioneers) and the replacement of aortic valves.

Professor El Khoury is the author or co-author of more than 120 papers published between 2009 and 2017 in journals such as the Journal of Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery, the Annals of Thoracic Surgery and the World Journal of Surgery.

He is also a member of the Belgian, French and European Societies of Cardiothoracic Surgery, the Royal Belgian Society of Surgery, the Association of Belgian Vascular Surgeons, the Belgian Society for Transplantation and the European Society for Cardiovascular Surgery.