Hendrik S. Konijn, a retired professor of statistics whose teaching career took him from the US to Israel and Australia, died in Oakland, California on October 14. He was 90.

Dr. Konijn helped to set up the Department of Statistics at Tel Aviv University and he taught there from 1966 until his retirement in 1985. He also taught in departments of mathematics and economics at UC Berkeley, the University of Sydney (Australia), Yale, the University of Minnesota and the Graduate Division of the City University of New York. He published extensively – one of his main interests was in sampling theory.

Dr. Konijn was born in Amsterdam, the Netherlands, and left for the United States in 1939. He graduated from the University of Rotterdam and received a master’s degree from Columbia University and a doctorate in Statistics from the University of California – Berkeley, under the direction of Prof. Erich Lehmann, in 1954.

During World War II he worked in Washington DC for the National Bureau of Economic Research, the Combined Shipping Adjustment Board, and the Office of Strategic Services. He helped implement a linear programming model to optimize transportation routes for military ships crossing the ocean from the East Coast of the US to Great Britain and Europe so that the length of the journey would be minimized, saving many lives and precious time. This was considered a major contribution to the war effort. For his work he received a commendation from the OSS signed by Major General William J. Donovan.

His great passions were music, art, and travel; he was an excellent pianist who loved playing chamber music. Although he never married, he was extremely involved with his family; he was a caring uncle to three generations of nieces and nephews who were fortunate to have him living nearby during the last decade of his life.
Contributions in his memory may be made to the Jewish National Fund, which he supported for almost sixty years, or to the Faculty of Exact Sciences at Tel Aviv University.