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Viviana Simon is Professor of Microbiology and Medicine at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai (ISMMS) in New York City, US. She is also a member of the Global Health and Emerging Pathogens Institute at ISMMS. Dr Simon’s laboratory studies the interplay between intracellular defence molecules and viral antagonists, investigates how CD4+ T stem cells become long-lived safe harbours for HIV and tests whether innate immune deregulation can be harnessed to render immune cells resistant to HIV infection. Dr Simon is an Editor for the Journal of Virology and serves on the editorial boards of the scientific journals, Elife and Retrovirology.