

## Bacteria 'has its own language'

**FINDING** out how bacteria 'talk' to each other could help scientists halt their growing resistance to antibiotics.

A new study has revealed that bacteria employ chemical signals to communicate.

Researchers hope that by interpreting this language they can develop new drugs to fight infections.

Bacteria are becoming increasingly resistant to antibiotics, posing a serious threat to human health. Scientists say infections that are currently manageable could become life-threatening without effective drugs.

Researchers at Edinburgh University found that bacteria responded differently to a combination of two messages than to either by itself.

Dr Sam Brown, from the university's school of biological sciences, said: 'Decoding their language is an important step towards placing our own communication in a broader biological context, as well as opening a new front in the search for mechanisms to control infections.'

The study has been published in the journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

