

Dundee team targets bacterium

RESEARCHERS have made a major breakthrough in the fight against serious disease - using a tube that forms a ring the size of Hampden Park.

The team, based at Dundee University, fired electrons at close to the speed of light into the synchrotron, a huge ring-shaped vacuum structure.

Using special magnets that help produce intense X-ray images, they were then able to view a 3D molecular reproduction of a key drug target.

The project was launched after the Dundee group joined a similar deputation from Oxford University studying *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, a common bacterium that can cause serious diseases and is resistant to many common antibiotics.

Professor William Hunter, from the College of Life Sciences at Dundee, said: "The objective is to help advance understanding of potentially new targets for the development of therapies against gram negative infections, which are a real problem because of the increase in drug resistance."

