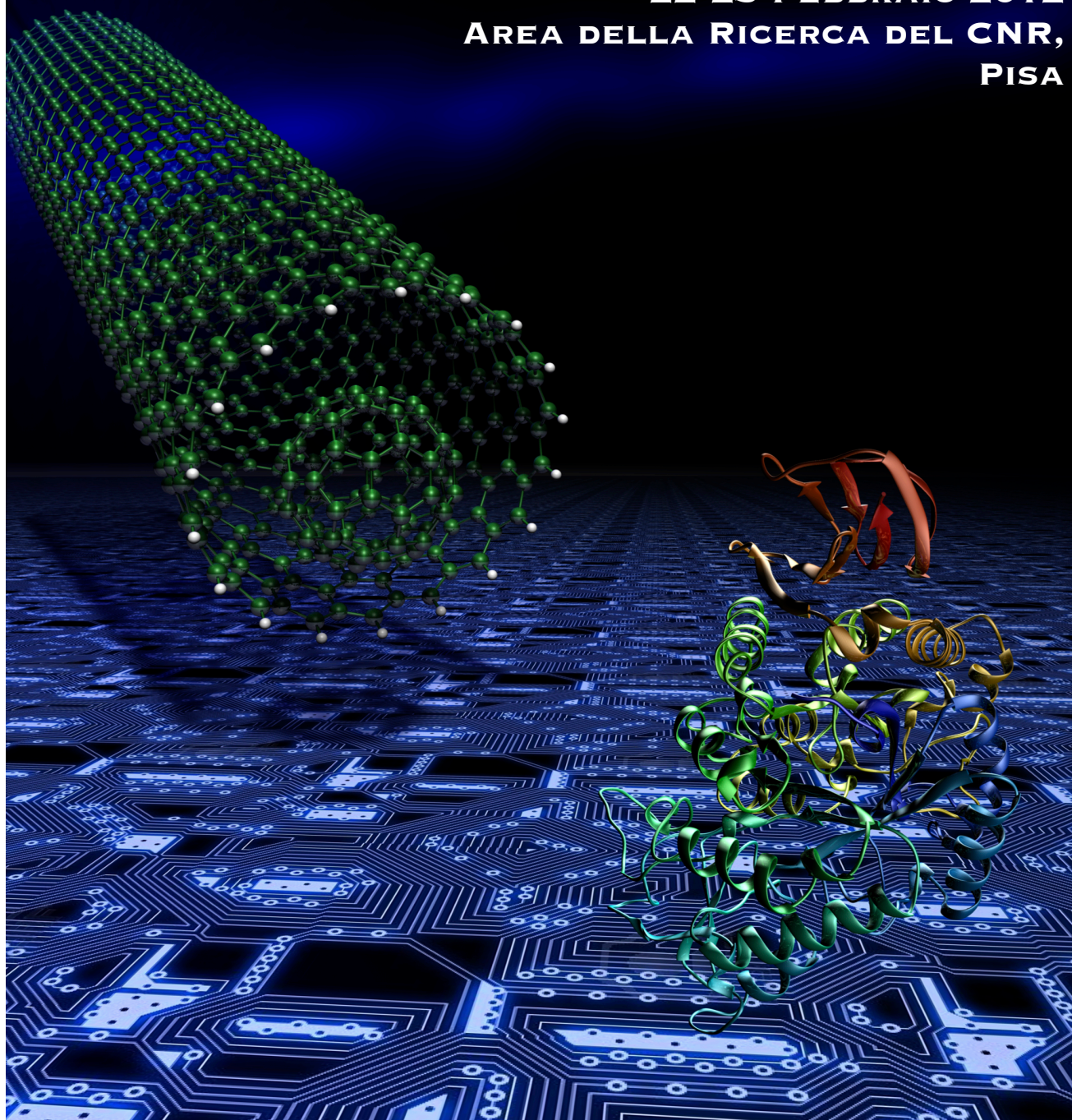


Primo Congresso Nazionale della Divisione di  
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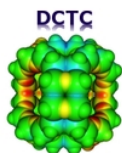
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## OR08      **The interaction of DNA with metal complexes: computational investigations**

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We have recently reported on the synthesis and characterization of novel first row transition metal complexes and the study of their DNA binding properties [1]. In this context, we are also making use of computational methods as supporting tool for the structural interpretation of the experimental spectra. For example, TD-DFT calculations have been employed to rationalize the electronic transitions of the absorption and emission spectra of a DNA-intercalating zinc(II) Schiff base complex [2]. Moreover, DFT [3] and QM/MM [4] methods have been applied to simulate the interaction of intercalators and DNA models. Such computational approach has been at present extended by the use of classical MD simulations of the metal complex-DNA systems, by explicitly including counterions and the water solvent. The MD simulations are preliminary to the application of the QM/MM calculations and are performed i) to obtain a DNA conformation relaxed at the experimental conditions and ii) to explore a wider conformational space of the DNA-molecule system. In this presentation few examples of the application of our combined experimental/computational approaches to study the interaction of DNA with heteroleptic transition metal complexes will be shown.

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