Molecular Docking Tutorial

Tutorial to prepare PDBQT files for docking by Vina and Autodock

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By following this tutorial the user will learn how to prepare the needed files for molecular docking by means of Autodock Vina and Autodock programs.

Overview

- Download of ADT (AutoDock Tools)

- Installation of ADT

- Key preparation (ligand)

- Lock preparation (protein or macromolecule)

Here is the sequence of minimal operation to set up a docking study.

First the target and its role has to be inspected.

Then a series of actions are to first validate the docking program and apply it
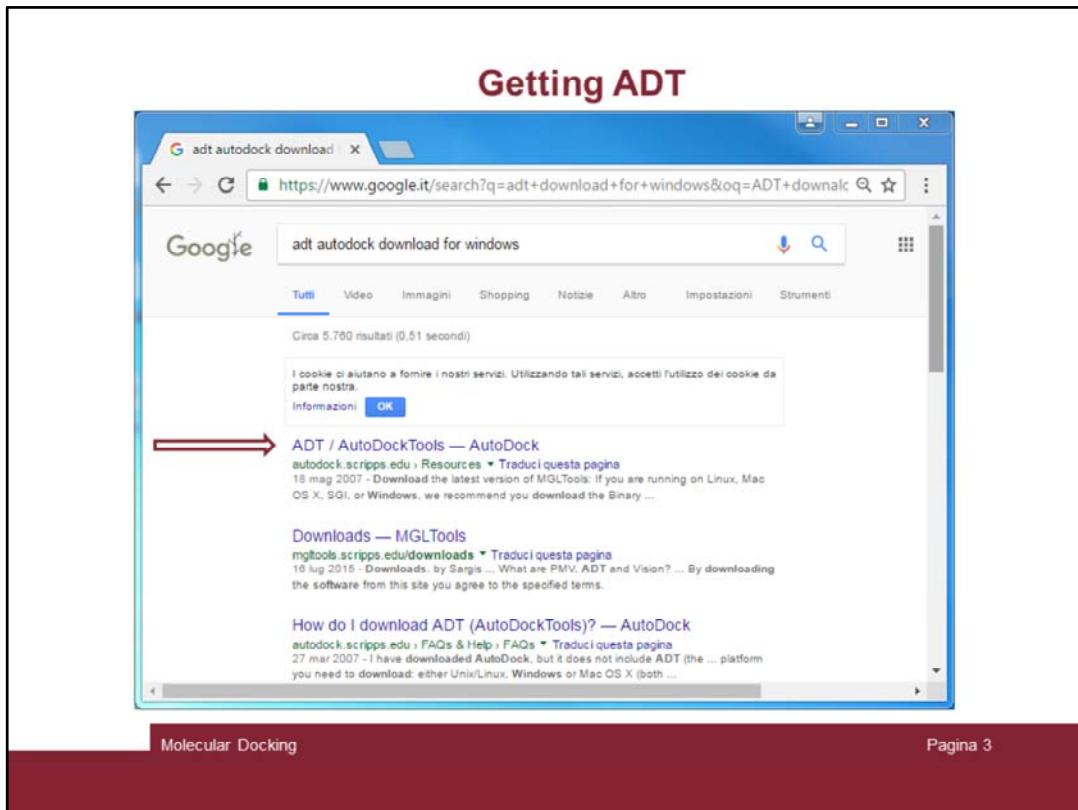
ADT stands for AutoDock Tools.

Google with the «adt autodock download for windows» keys and the first link should be the one you are looking for. Click on that and …
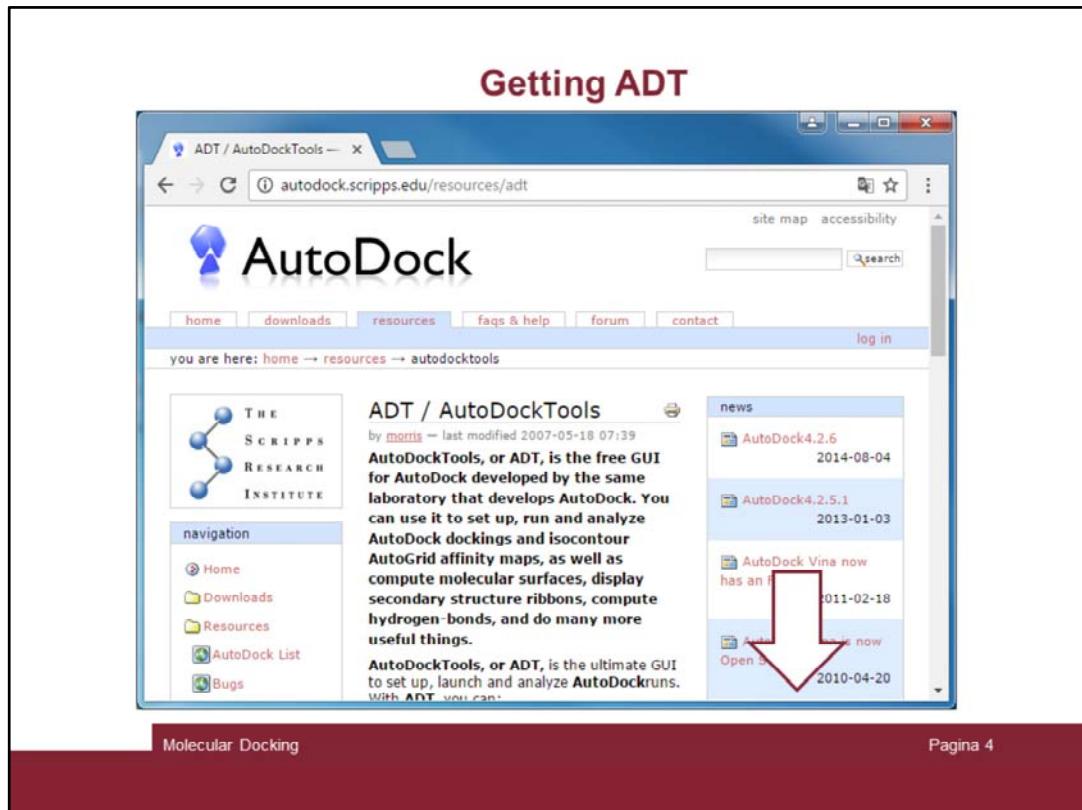
… the AutoDock home page will be reached.

Scroll down the page …
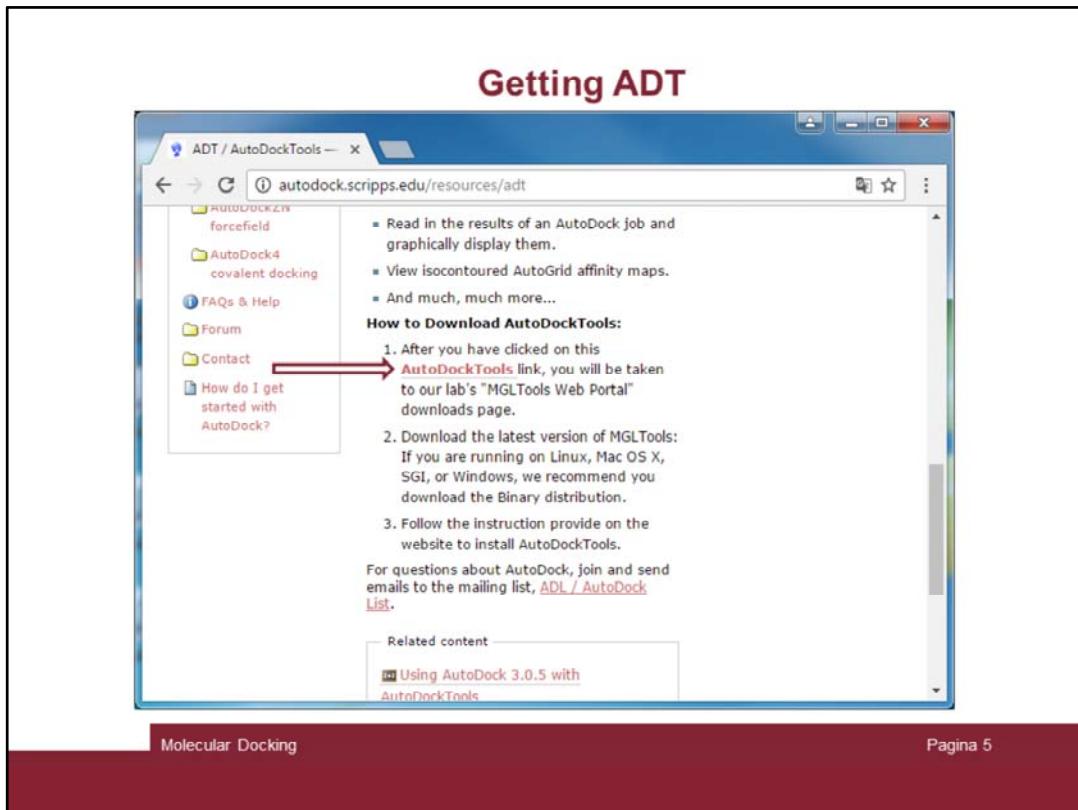
… and look for the AutodockTools link as indicated by the arrow.

Click on the link and …
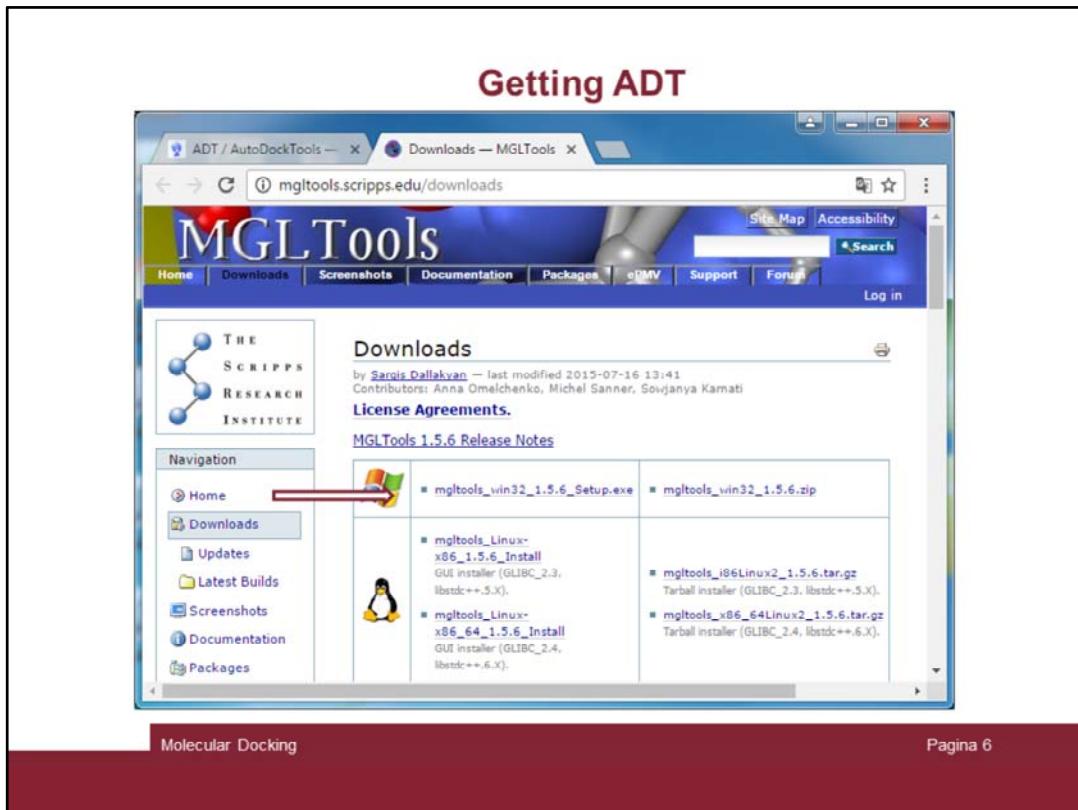
… the MGL Tools web page will open.

Download the program (pay attention if you need 32 or 64 bit version for you r operating system [Windows, Linux or MacOS])

In the example the windows version will be clicked …

And the browser will start downloading it.
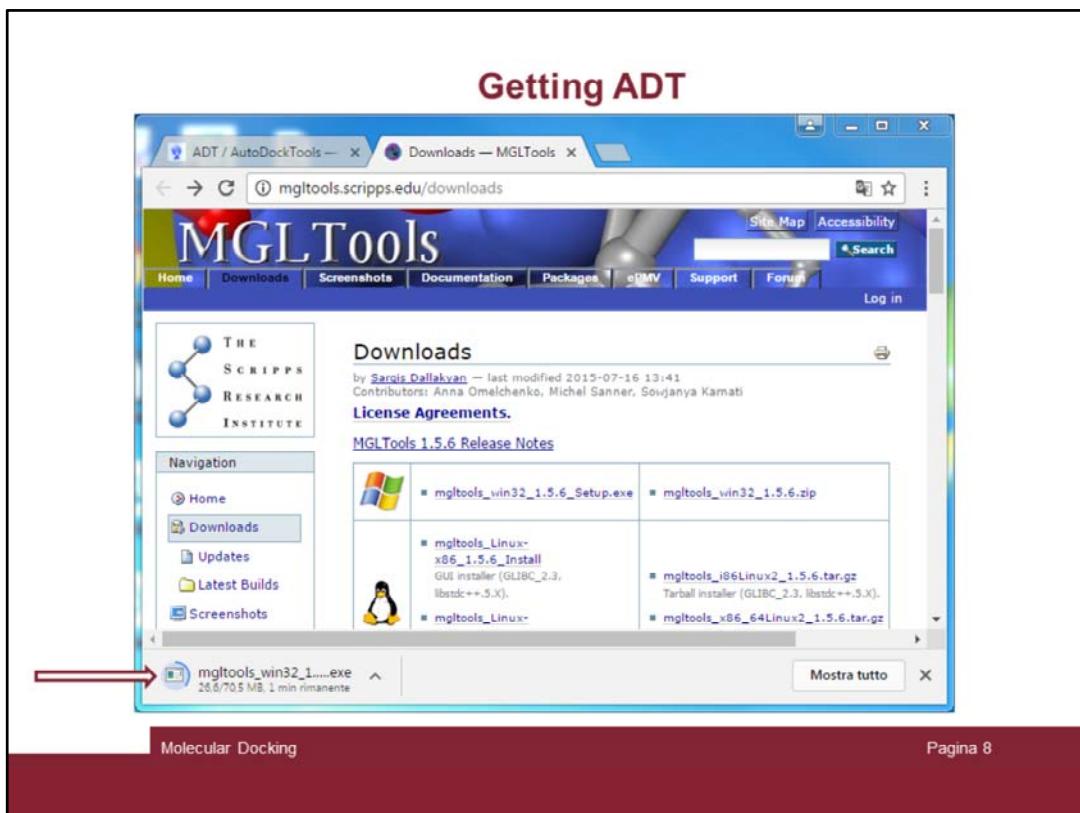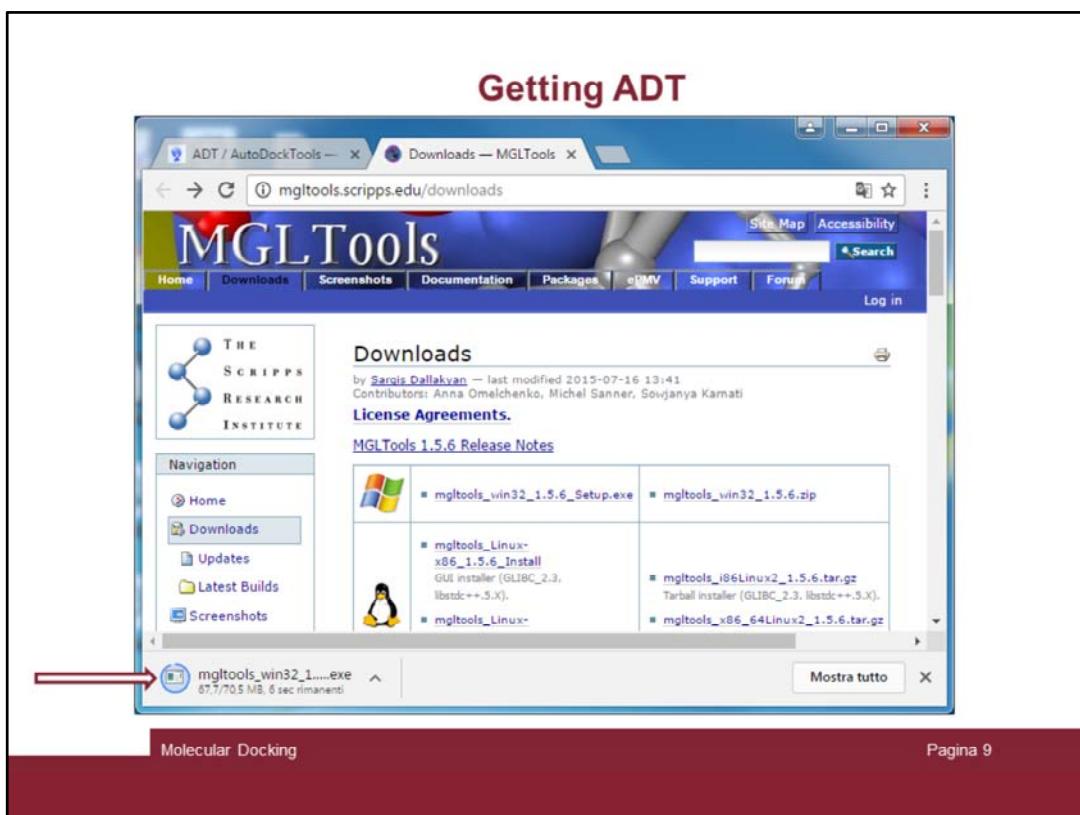
It will take some time (if you have a slow computer or net)

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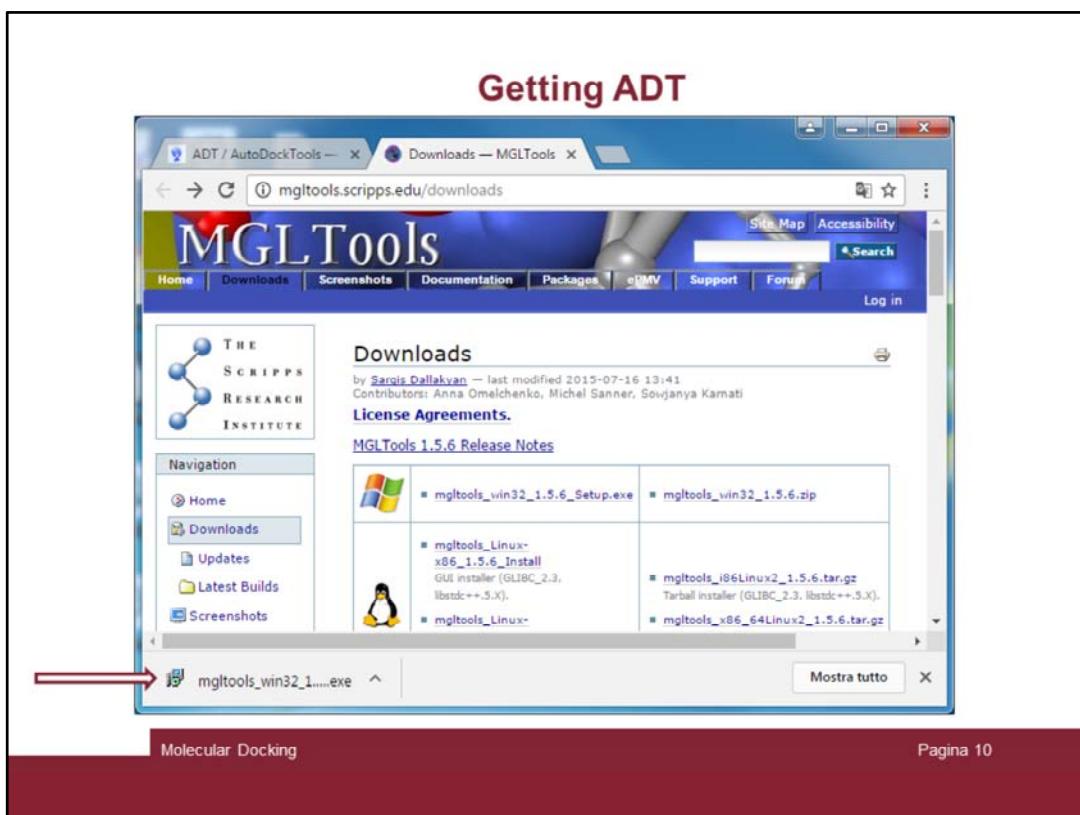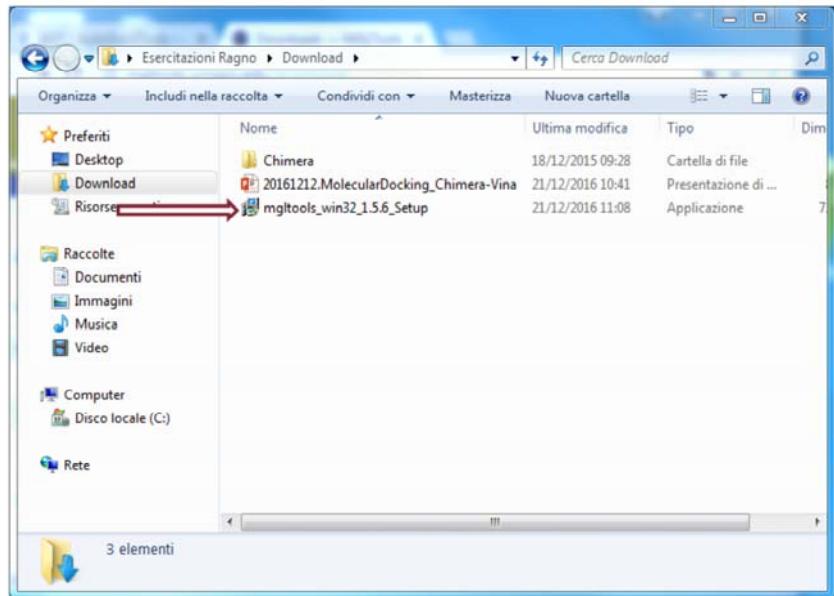
Go to the folder containing the downloaded file and click twice on it and install the program and answer «yes» all the questions the installation program asks

After the installation is finished a some new icons will appear on your desktop. That indicated by the arrow it is the one you need.
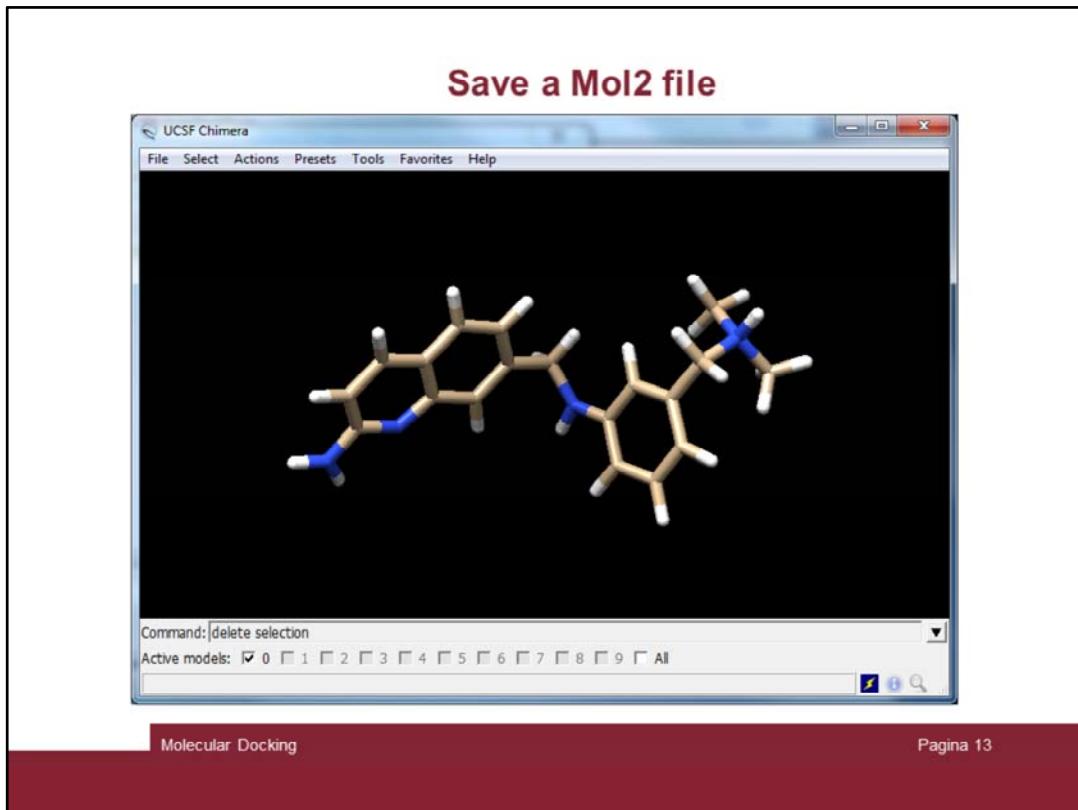
Before you start using the ADT program, you need to save a mol2 file format of the ligand.

With chimera add all the hydrogens to it and …
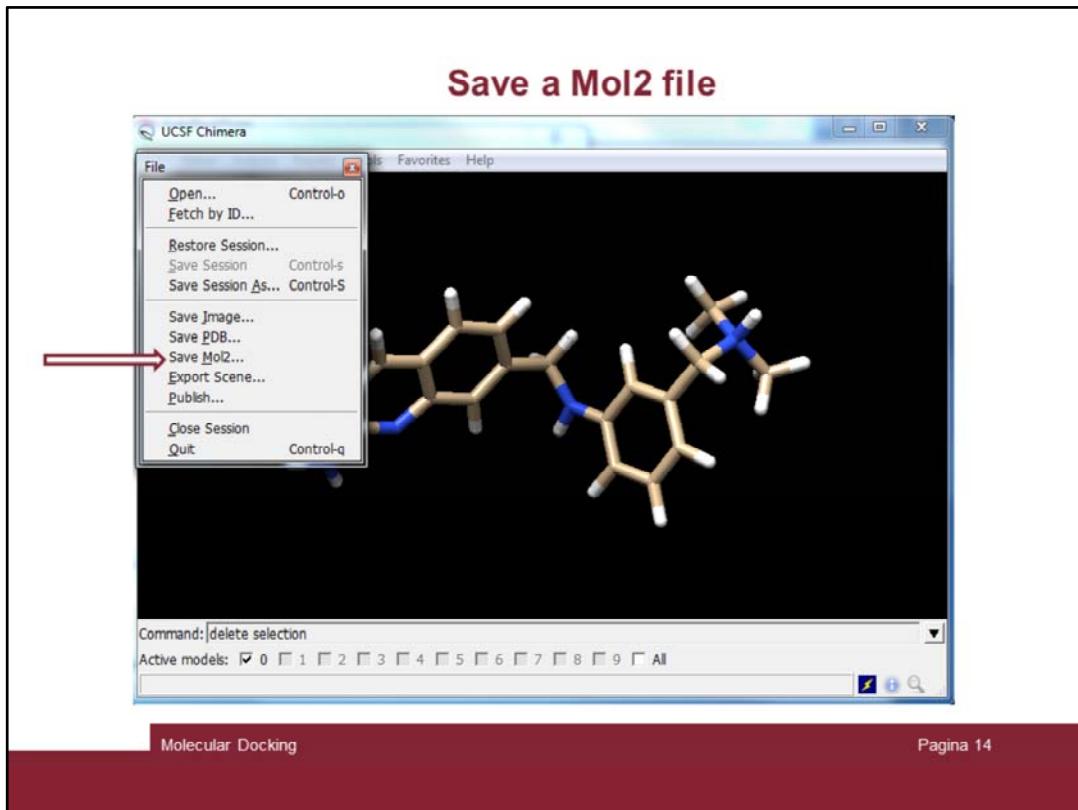
… save the mol in Mol2 (File → Save Mol2 …)
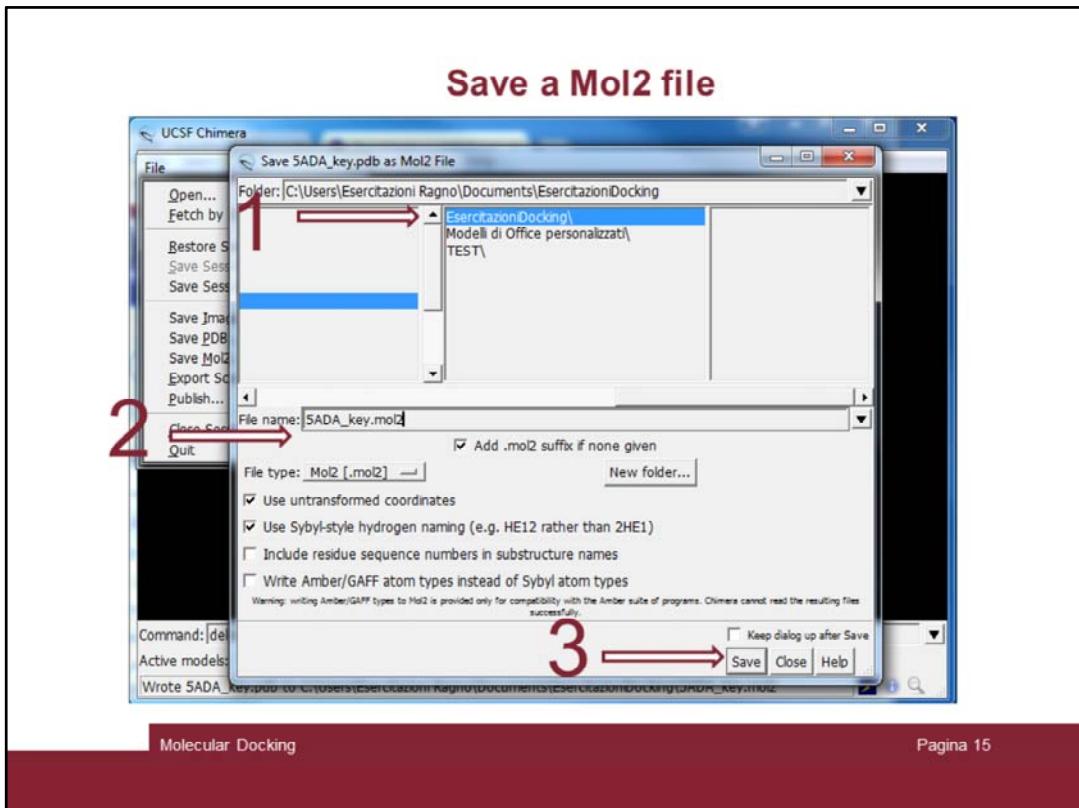
Select the folder, give a name and save it.
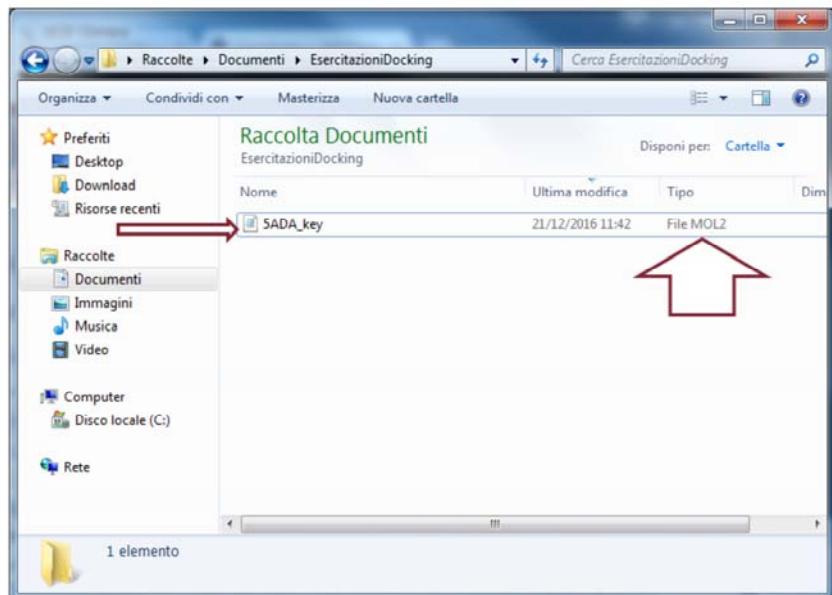
Check the mol2 file was created
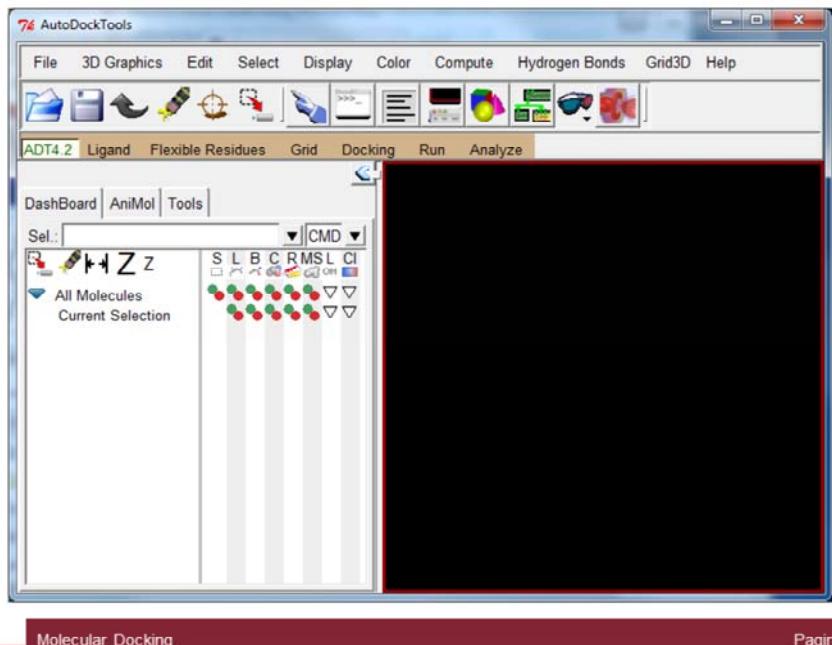
Now click twice on the ADT icon and start the program.
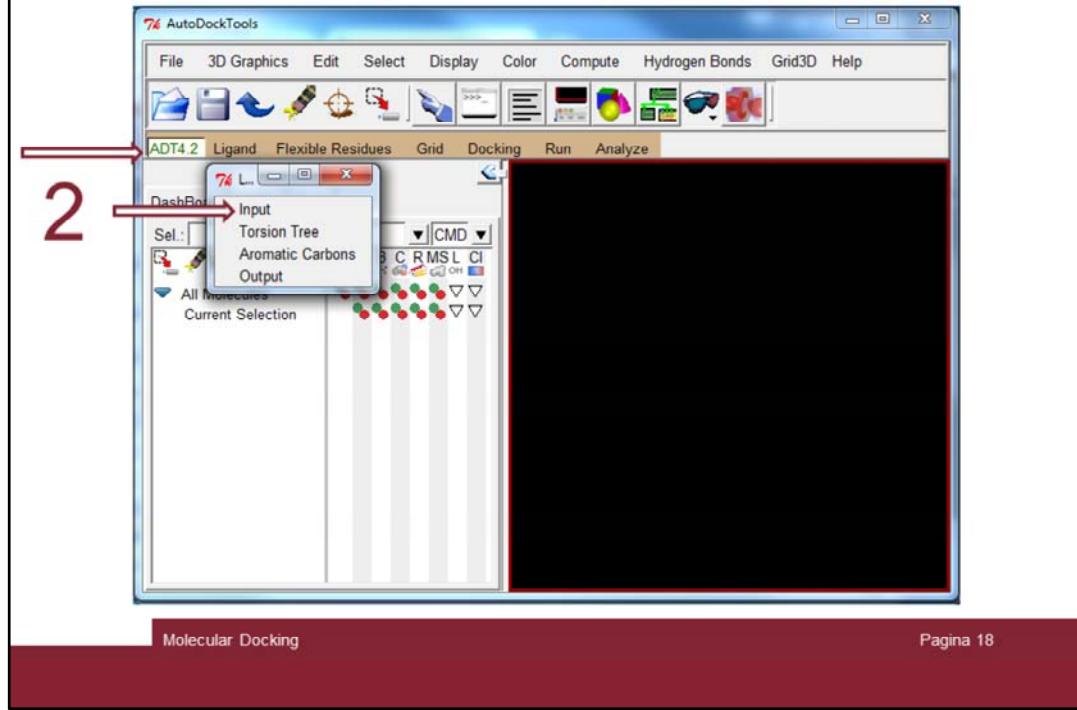
Using the ADT4.2 menu (see the arrow), click on Ligand and select Input.
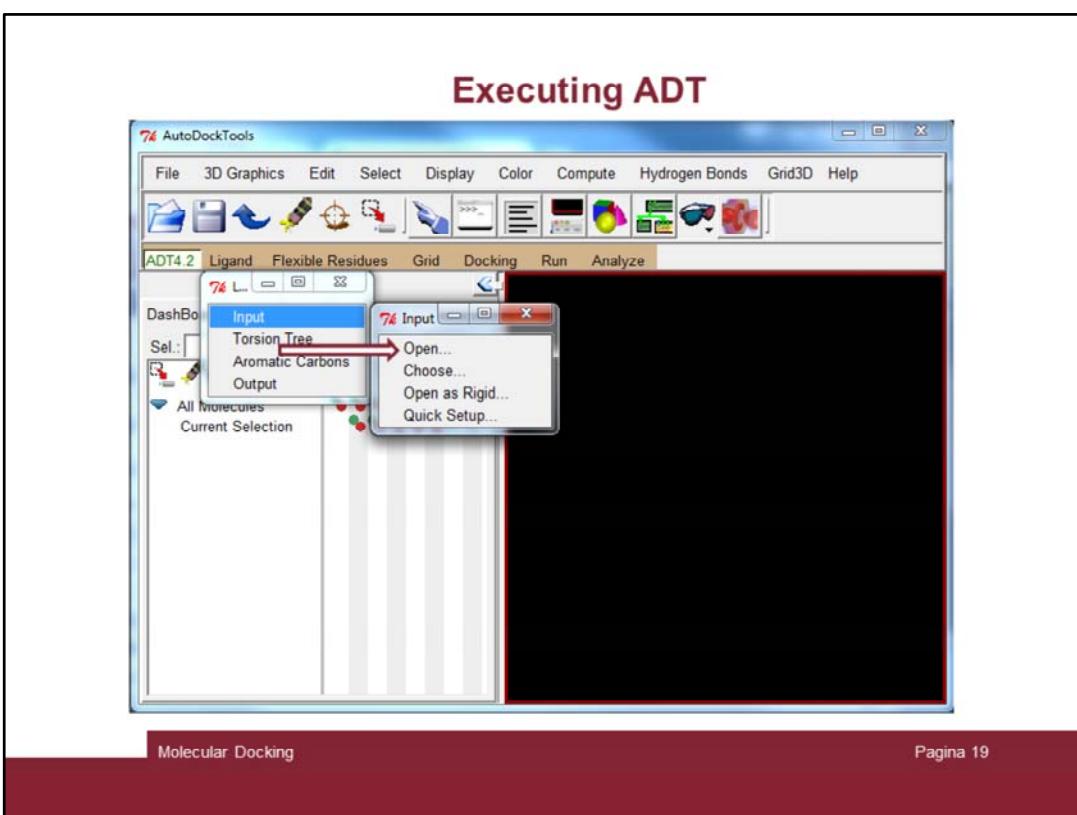
Then open
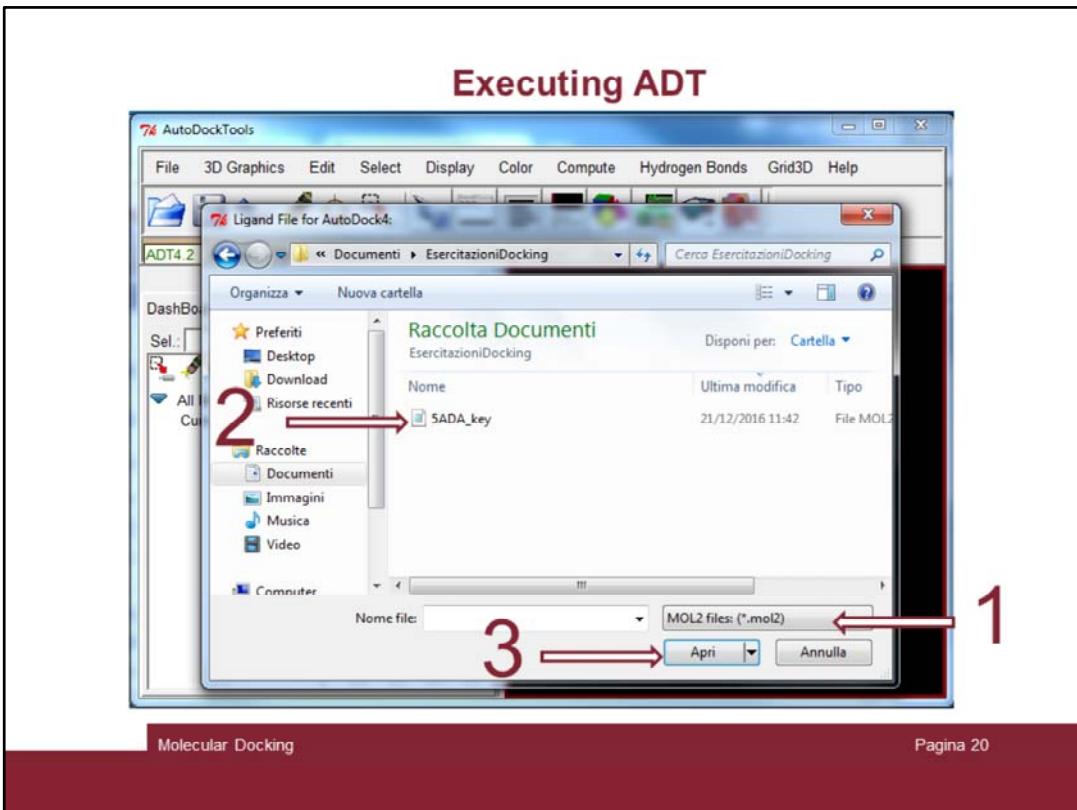
A windows will pop up. Set the file format to «Mol2 files», Select the file you've created by means of Chimera and open it

The program will infor you about some action it applied to the loaded molecule
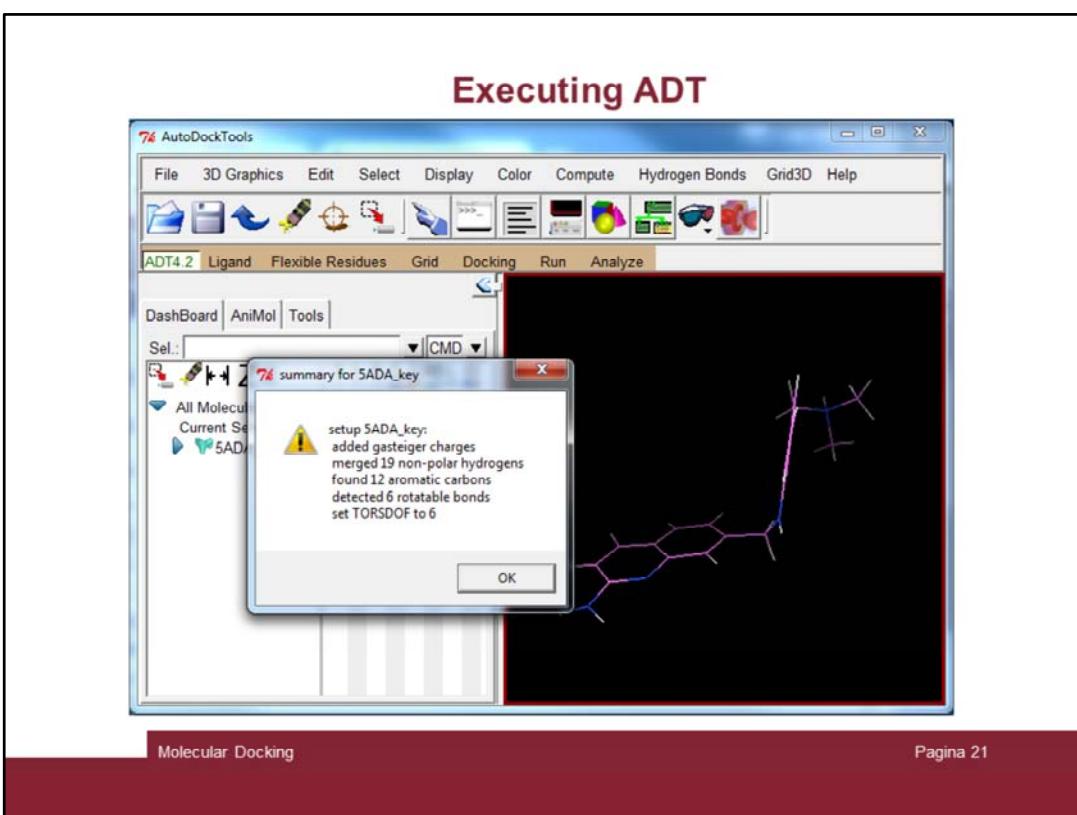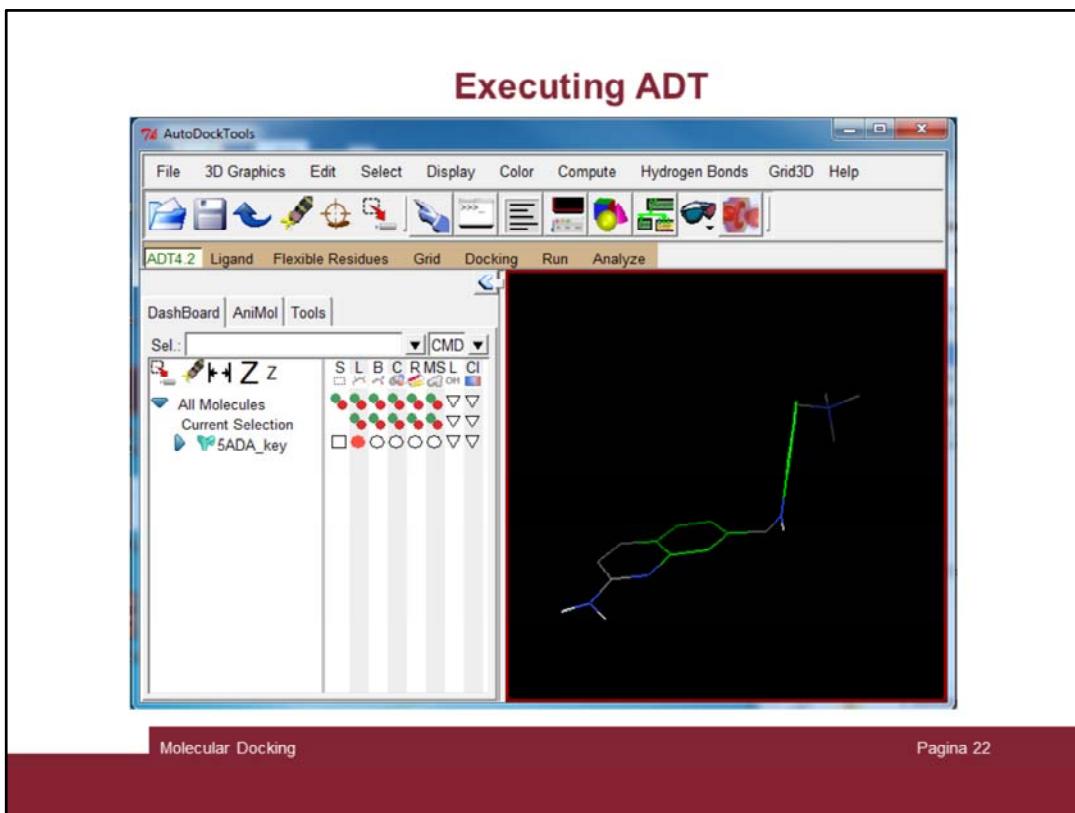
And will show the molecule in the right window (aromatic carbon atoms are colored in green)
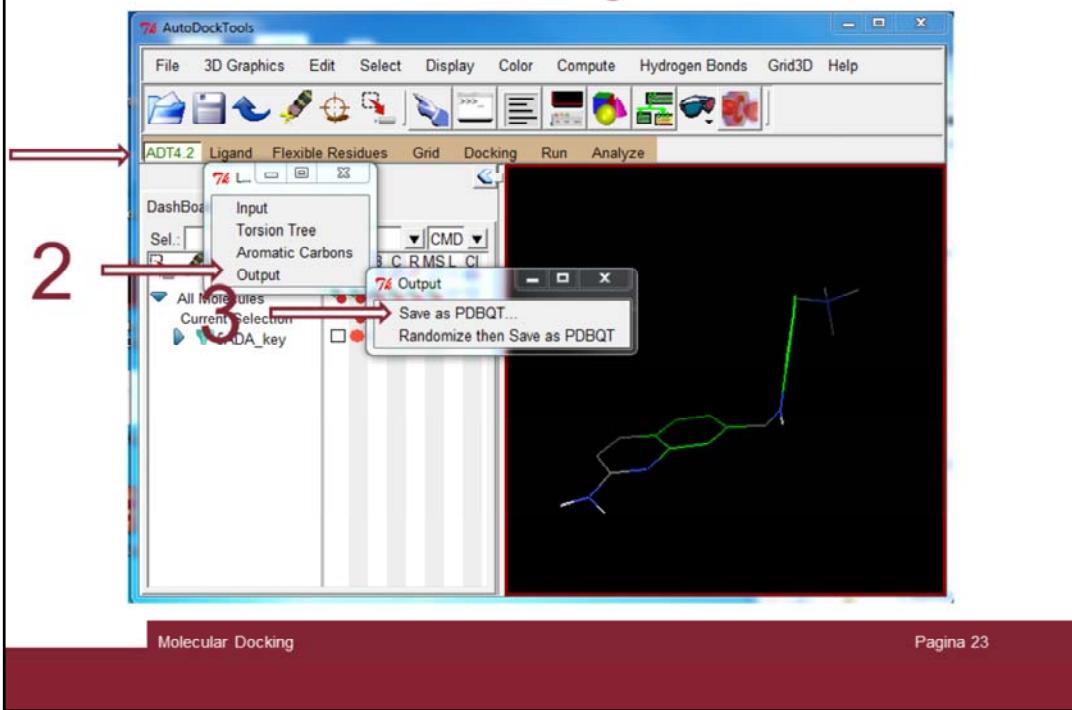
Now let's save the PDBQT file format of the molecule. Click on Ligand → Output → Save as PDBQT …
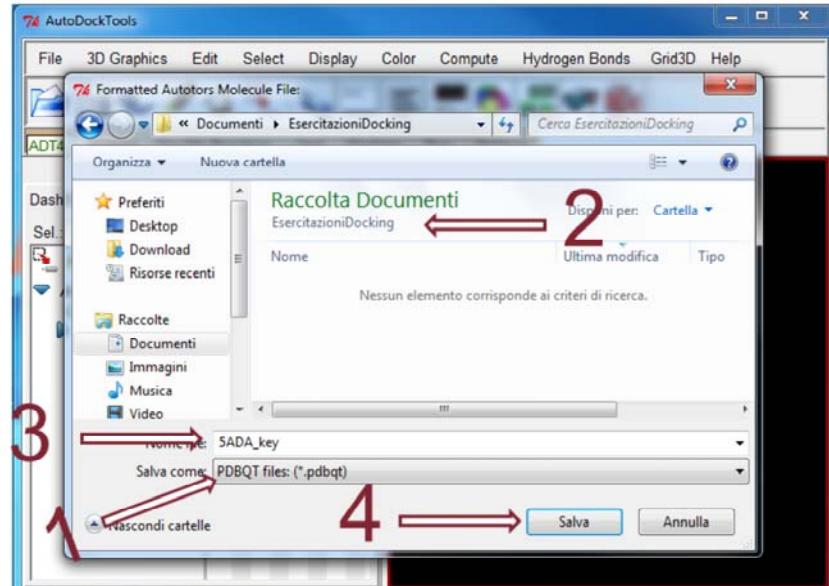
A windows will pop up. Set the file format to «PDBQT files».

Set the folder, the name of the file and save it.

Check the PDBQT file was created

The Mol2 file

Check the two files by reading them with the Notes Windows program.

ADT stands for AutoDock Tools.

Executing ADT

- The molecule has been converted into pdbqt format
- Apply the procedure to all small molecules that have to be docked by means of Autodock Vina
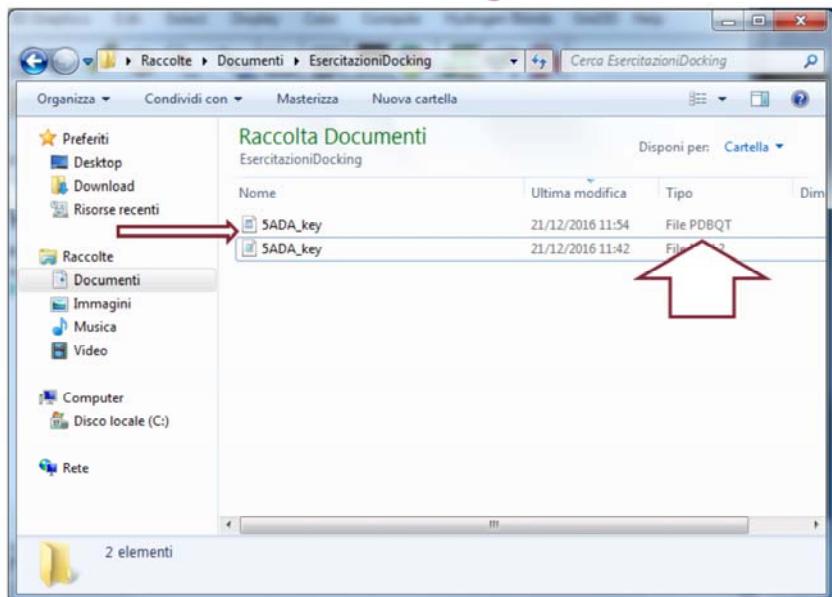
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