

## Supplementary Methods

**N-methylated triflate derivatives of 4,6-bis-(6-(acrid-9-yl)-pyridin-2-yl)-pyrimidine** or **TAC** were synthesized from bisacridine 4,6-bis-(6-(acrid-9-yl)-pyridin-2-yl)-pyrimidine<sup>18</sup> by adding 20  $\mu$ L of methyltrifluoromethanesulfonate under argon to 39 mg of bisacridine 4,6-bis-(6-(acrid-9-yl)-pyridin-2-yl)-pyrimidine ( $5 \times 10^{-5}$  mol) solubilized in 25 mL of hot dry 1,2-dichloroethane (US Patent 20080119492). The yellow solution was refluxed for 4 hours, and, after addition of 5  $\mu$ L of methyltrifluoromethanesulfonate, was further heated for 2 hours. After the solution was allowed to cool to room temperature, the yellow precipitate was filtered and washed twice with diethylether (2 mL) and dried *in vacuo* to yield 45 mg of a bright yellow solid. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, D<sub>2</sub>O): 9.75 (s, 1H, tris), 9.05 (s, 1H, tris), 8.98 (d, <sup>3</sup>J = 8.4 Hz, 1H, tris), 8.74 (s, 1H, bis), 8.62 (d, <sup>3</sup>J = 9 Hz, 2H, tris), 8.57 (d, <sup>3</sup>J = 9 Hz, 2H, tris), 8.53 (d, <sup>3</sup>J = 9 Hz, 4H, bis), 8.48 (s, 1H, bis), 8.45 (t, <sup>3</sup>J = 8 Hz, 1H, tris), 8.42 (t, <sup>3</sup>J = 8 Hz, 1H, tris), 8.2-8.3 (m, 5H from tris, 4H from bis), 8.0 (d, <sup>3</sup>J = 7 Hz, 2H, tris), 7.9 (d, <sup>3</sup>J = 8 Hz, 2H, tris), 7.81 (d, <sup>3</sup>J = 8 Hz, 2H, tris), 7.6-7.8 (m, 2H from bis, 4H from tris), 7.2-7.4 (m, 8H, bis), 4.89 (s, 3H, tris), 7.03 (t, <sup>3</sup>J = 8 Hz, 4H, bis), 4.86 (s, 6H, bis), 4.84 (s, 3H, tris), 4.37 (s, 3H, tris).