Electronic supporting information

AlⁱBu₃: Unprecedented Main-Group Metal Catalyst for Helical-Sense-Selective Polymerization of Chiral Aryl Isocyanides and Copolymerization with Achiral Aryl Isocyanides

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Table of Contents

Experimental Section Materials. **General Methods.** Scheme S1. Synthesis of 2-naphthyl Isocyanide (NI). Synthesis of N-(naphthalen-2-yl)formamide (2). Synthesis of 2-naphthyl Isocyanide (a). Scheme S2. Synthesis of 3-isopropyloxycarbonyl phenyl isocyanide (IPI). Synthesis of isopropyl 3-aminobenzoate (4). Synthesis of isopropyl 3-formamidobenzoate (5). Synthesis of 3-isopropyloxycarbonyl phenyl isocyanide (b). Scheme S3. Synthesis of 4-ethoxycarbonyl phenyl isocyanide (EPI). Synthesis of ethyl 4-aminobenzoate (7). Synthesis of ethyl 4-formamidobenzoate (8). Synthesis of 4-ethoxycarbonyl phenyl isocyanide (c). Scheme S4. Synthesis of (1S, 2R, 5S)-2-isopropyl-5-methylcyclohexyl 4-isocyanobenzoate (**D-IMCI**) and (*1R*,*2S*,*5R*)-2-isopropyl-5-methylcyclohexyl 4-isocyanobenzoate (**L-IMCI**). Synthesis of (1S,2R,5S)-2-isopropyl-5-methylcyclohexyl 4-nitrobenzoate (10d). Synthesis of (1S,2R,5S)-2-isopropyl-5-methylcyclohexyl 4-aminobenzoate (11d). Synthesis of (1S,2R,5S)-2-isopropyl-5-methylcyclohexyl 4-formamidobenzoate (12d). Synthesis of (1S,2R,5S)-2-isopropyl-5-methylcyclohexyl 4-isocyanobenzoate (d). Synthesis of (1R,2S,5R)-2-isopropyl-5-methylcyclohexyl 4-nitrobenzoate (10e). Synthesis of (1R,2S,5R)-2-isopropyl-5-methylcyclohexyl 4-aminobenzoate (11e). Synthesis of (1R, 2S, 5R)-2-isopropyl-5-methylcyclohexyl 4-isocyanobenzoate (e). Scheme S5. 4-isocyano-4'-(1,2,2-triphenylvinyl)-1,1'-biphenyl (ITPB). Synthesis of (2-(4-bromophenyl)ethene-1,1,2-triyl)tribenzene (15). Synthesis of (4-(1,2,2-triphenylvinyl)phenyl)boronic acid (16). Synthesis of N-(4-iodophenyl)formamide (18). Synthesis of N-(4'-(1,2,2-triphenylvinyl)-[1,1'-biphenyl]-4-yl)formamide (19). Synthesis of 4-isocyano-4'-(1,2,2-triphenylvinyl)-1,1'-biphenyl (f). A typical procedure for the polymerization of 4-ethoxycarbonyl phenyl isocyanide (EPI) (Table 1, entry 3). A typical procedure for the copolymerization of (1S,2R,5S)-2-isopropyl-5-methylcyclohexyl 4-isocyanobenzoate (**D-IMCI**) with 4-isocyano-4'-(1,2,2-triphenylvinyl)-1,1'-biphenyl (**ITPB**) (Table 2, entry 3). A typical procedure for the copolymerization of (1S, 2R, 5S)-2-isopropyl-5-methylcyclohexyl 4-isocyanobenzoate (D-IMCI) with 3-isopropyloxycarbonyl phenyl isocyanide (IPI) (Table 2, entry 13). Calculation of the IMCI contents of the copolymers.

Solvent separation experiments.

Figure S1. Photos of solubility of poly(D-IMCI) (A-B, left), poly(ITPB) (A-B, right), copolymer product (Table 2, entry 3) (C-D) in toluene, poly(L-IMCI) (E-F, left), poly(IPI) (E-F, right), copolymer product (Table 2, entry 18) (G-H) in toluene.

Figure S2. ¹H NMR spectrum of N-(naphthalen-2-yl)formamide (2).

Figure S3. ¹H NMR spectrum of 2-naphthyl isocyanide (a).

Figure S4. ¹³C NMR spectrum of 2-naphthyl isocyanide (a).

Figure S5. ¹H NMR spectrum of 3-isopropyloxycarbonyl phenyl isocyanide (b).

Figure S6. ¹H NMR spectrum of ethyl 4-aminobenzoate (7).

Figure S7. ¹H NMR spectrum of 4-ethoxycarbonyl phenyl isocyanide (c).

Figure S8. ¹³C NMR spectrum of 4-ethoxycarbonyl phenyl isocyanide (c).

Figure S9. ¹H NMR spectrum of (1S, 2R, 5S)-2-isopropyl-5-methylcyclohexyl 4-isocyanobenzoate (d).

Figure S10. ¹³C NMR spectrum of (1S, 2R, 5S)-2-isopropyl-5-methylcyclohexyl 4-isocyanobenzoate (**d**).

Figure S11. ¹H NMR spectrum of (1R, 2S, 5R)-2-isopropyl-5-methylcyclohexyl 4-isocyanobenzoate (e).

Figure S12. ¹³C NMR spectrum of (1R, 2S, 5R)-2-isopropyl-5-methylcyclohexyl 4-isocyanobenzoate (e).

Figure S13. ¹H NMR spectrum of 4-isocyano-4'-(1,2,2-triphenylvinyl)-1,1'-biphenyl (f).

Figure S14. ¹³C NMR spectrum of 4-isocyano-4'-(1,2,2-triphenylvinyl)-1,1'-biphenyl (f).

Figure S15. ¹H NMR spectrum of polymers in CDCl₃ at 25 °C.

Figure S16. ¹H NMR spectra of poly(D-IMCI-*co*-ITPB)s and poly(D-IMCI) (Table 1, entry 4 and Table 2, entries 1-5).

Figure S17. ¹H NMR spectra of poly(L-IMCI-*co*-ITPB)s and poly(L-IMCI) (Table 1, entry 5 and Table 2, entries 6-10).

Figure S18. ¹H NMR spectra of poly(D-IMCI-*co*-IPI)s and poly(D-IMCI) (Table 1, entry 4 and Table 2, entries 11-15).

Figure S19. ¹H NMR spectra of poly(L-IMCI-*co*-IPI)s and poly(L-IMCI) (Table 1, entry 5 and Table 2, entries 16-20).

Figure S20. FT-IR spectra of (A) EPI, (B) ITPB, (C) D-IMCI, (D) L-IMCI, (E) IPI.

Figure S21. FT-IR spectra of (A) poly(EPI), (B) poly(ITPB), (C) poly(D-IMCI), (D) poly(L-IMCI), (E) poly(IPI).

Figure S22. AIE nature characterization of (A) ITPB monomer and it corresponding (B) poly(ITPB) (Table 1, entry 6) in THF/water mixture.

Figure S23. Plots of fluorescence intensity vs water fraction in THF/water mixture (0.01 mol of ITPB unit/mL).

Figure S24. AIE nature characterization of poly(D-IMCI-co-ITPB)s in THF/water mixture.

Figure S25. AIE nature characterization of poly(L-IMCI-*co*-ITPB)s in THF/water mixture.

Figure S26. AIE nature characterization of ITPB monomer and it corresponding poly(ITPB) (Table 1, entry 6) in THF/water mixture.

Figure S27. AIE nature characterization of poly(D-IMCI-co-ITPB)s in THF/water mixture.

Figure S28. AIE nature characterization of poly(L-IMCI-co-ITPB)s in THF/water mixture.

Figure S29. FT-IR spectrum of NI and the compound obtained from the reaction of $Al^iBu_3/activator$ with 4 equiv. of NI.

Figure S30. High resolution ESI-MS spectra of NI oligomer obtained by the Al^{*i*}Bu₃/activator binary systems in PhCl.

Figure S31. GPC curve of poly(IPI) obtained by cationic Aluminum complex in Table 1, entry 2.

Figure S32. GPC curve of poly(EPI) obtained by cationic Aluminum complex in Table 1, entry 3. **Figure S33.** GPC curve of poly(D-IMCI) obtained by cationic Aluminum complex in Table 1, entry 4.

Figure S34. GPC curve of poly(L-IMCI) obtained by cationic Aluminum complex in Table 1, entry 5.

Figure S35. GPC curve of poly(ITPB) obtained by cationic Aluminum complex in Table 1, entry 6.

Figure S36. GPC curve of poly(EPI) obtained by cationic Aluminum complex in Table 1, entry 7. **Figure S37.** GPC curve of poly(EPI) obtained by cationic Aluminum complex in Table 1, entry 8.

Figure S38. GPC curve of poly(EPI) obtained by cationic Aluminum complex in Table 1, entry 9. **Figure S39.** GPC curve of poly(EPI) obtained by cationic Aluminum complex in Table 1, entry 10.

Figure S40. GPC curve of poly(EPI) obtained by cationic Aluminum complex in Table 1, entry 11.

Figure S41. GPC curve of poly(EPI) obtained by cationic Aluminum complex in Table 1, entry 12.

Figure S42. GPC curve of poly(EPI) obtained by cationic Aluminum complex in Table 1, entry 13.

Figure S43. GPC curve of poly(EPI) obtained by cationic Aluminum complex in Table 1, entry 14.

Figure S44. GPC curve of poly(EPI) obtained by cationic Aluminum complex in Table 1, entry 15.

Figure S45. GPC curve of poly(EPI) obtained by cationic Aluminum complex in Table 1, entry 16.

Figure S46. GPC curve of poly(EPI) obtained by cationic Aluminum complex in Table 1, entry 17.

Figure S47. GPC curve of poly(EPI) obtained by cationic Aluminum complex in Table 1, entry 18.

Figure S48. GPC curve of poly(D-IMCI-*co*-ITPB) obtained by cationic Aluminum complex in Table 2, entry 1.

Figure S49. GPC curve of poly(D-IMCI-*co*-ITPB) obtained by cationic Aluminum complex in Table 2, entry 2.

Figure S50. GPC curve of poly(D-IMCI-*co*-ITPB) obtained by cationic Aluminum complex in Table 2, entry 3.

Figure S51. GPC curve of poly(D-IMCI-*co*-ITPB) obtained by cationic Aluminum complex in Table 2, entry 4.

Figure S52. GPC curve of poly(D-IMCI-*co*-ITPB) obtained by cationic Aluminum complex in Table 2, entry 5.

Figure S53. GPC curve of poly(L-IMCI-*co*-ITPB) obtained by cationic Aluminum complex in Table 2, entry 6.

Figure S54. GPC curve of poly(L-IMCI-*co*-ITPB) obtained by cationic Aluminum complex in Table 2, entry 7.

Figure S55. GPC curve of poly(L-IMCI-*co*-ITPB) obtained by cationic Aluminum complex in Table 2, entry 8.

Figure S56. GPC curve of poly(L-IMCI-*co*-ITPB) obtained by cationic Aluminum complex in Table 2, entry 9.

Figure S57. GPC curve of poly(L-IMCI-*co*-ITPB) obtained by cationic Aluminum complex in Table 2, entry 10.

Figure S58. GPC curve of poly(D-IMCI-*co*-IPI) obtained by cationic Aluminum complex in Table 2, entry 11.

Figure S59. GPC curve of poly(D-IMCI-*co*-IPI) obtained by cationic Aluminum complex in Table 2, entry 12.

Figure S60. GPC curve of poly(D-IMCI-*co*-IPI) obtained by cationic Aluminum complex in Table 2, entry 13.

Figure S61. GPC curve of poly(D-IMCI-*co*-IPI) obtained by cationic Aluminum complex in Table 2, entry 14.

Figure S62. GPC curve of poly(D-IMCI-*co*-IPI) obtained by cationic Aluminum complex in Table 2, entry 15.

Figure S63. GPC curve of poly(L-IMCI-*co*-IPI) obtained by cationic Aluminum complex in Table 2, entry 16.

Figure S64. GPC curve of poly(L-IMCI-*co*-IPI) obtained by cationic Aluminum complex in Table 2, entry 17.

Figure S65. GPC curve of poly(L-IMCI-*co*-IPI) obtained by cationic Aluminum complex in Table 2, entry 18.

Figure S66. GPC curve of poly(L-IMCI-*co*-IPI) obtained by cationic Aluminum complex in Table 2, entry 19.

Figure S67. GPC curve of poly(L-IMCI-*co*-IPI) obtained by cationic Aluminum complex in Table 2, entry 20.

EXPERIMENTAL SECTION

Materials.

All manipulations of air and moisture-sensitive compounds were performed under a dry and oxygen-free nitrogen atmosphere by using Schlenk techniques or under a nitrogen atmosphere in an Mbraun glove box. Nitrogen (Beijing AP Beifen Gases Industrial Co., Ltd.) was purified by passing through a Dryclean column (4A molecular sieves, Dalian Replete Science And Technology Co., Ltd.) and a Gasclean column (Dalian Replete Science And Technology Co., Ltd.). The nitrogen in the glovebox was constantly circulated through a copper/molecular sieves catalyst unit. The oxygen and moisture concentrations in the glovebox atmosphere were monitored by an O_2/H_2O Combi-Analyzer (Mbraun) to ensure both were always below 0.1 ppm. Anhydrous THF, hexane and toluene were were purified by a solvent purification system (SPS-800, Mbraun), and dried over fresh Na chips in the glovebox. Al'Bu₃, [Ph₃C][B(C₆F₅)₄], [PhMe₂NH][B(C₆F₅)₄], and B(C₆F₅)₃ were purchased from Tosoh Finechem Corporation and used without purification. The isocyanide monomers were synthesized according to the literatures. The deuterated solvents toluene-d8 (99.6 atom% D) and chloroform-d1 (99.8 atom% D) were obtained from Cambridge Isotope .

General Methods.

¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker Avance (III HD 400 MHz) spectrometer. The molecular weights and the molecular weight distributions of the EPI polymers were determined against polystyrene standard at 25 °C by GPC on a Waters HPLC-515 apparatus, CHCl₃ was employed as the eluent at a flow rate of 1 mL/min. The molecular weights and the molecular weight distributions of the D-(or L-)IMCI-ITPB copolymers were determined against polystyrene standard at 25 °C by GPC on a Waters HLC-8320GPC apparatus, THF was used as the eluent at a flow rate of 1 mL/min. FT-IR spectra were recorded on a Thermo IS5 FT-IR system using KBr pellets at room temperature. The UV-Vis spectra were recorded on a TU-1901 double beam UV-vis spectrophotometer, and the fluorescence spectra were recorded on a HITACHI F-7000 fluorescence measurement, and the slit widths were set at 5.0 nm for both excitation and emission during the fluorescence measurement. Circular dichroism spectra were collected on a Jasco J-810 and the quartz cell length is 1.0 mm.

Scheme S1. Synthesis of 2-naphthyl Isocyanide (NI)



Synthesis of N-(naphthalen-2-yl)formamide (2): compound 1 (5 g, 34.92 mmol) was dissolved in a mixture solvents of formic acid (50 mL) and acetic acid (10 mL), the resulting mixture was refluxed overnight. After the reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature, the solvents were removed by evaporation. The residue was dissolved in CH_2Cl_2 (200 mL) and washed with saturated aqueous Na_2CO_3 (2 × 50 mL), the separated organic phase was dried over anhydrous Na_2SO_4 , concentrated under reduced pressure, and the residue was purified by column chromatography (silica gel, 3 : 1 - 1 : 1 hexane to ethylacetate, v/v) to afford compound **2** as a white solid (4.95 g, 82.8% yield). ¹H NMR (d6-DMSO, 400 MHz): δ 7.41 (dt, J = 0.8, 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.48 (dt, J = 0.8, 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.57 (dd, J = 2.0, 8.8 Hz, 0.8H), 7.67 (d, J = 1.6 Hz, 0.2H), 7.78 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 0.2H), 7.83 (t, J = 6.8 Hz, 1.5H), 7.86 (d, J = 5.6 Hz, 0.6H), 7.88 (d, J = 5.2 Hz, 0.5H), 8.30 (d, J = 1.2 Hz, 0.7H), 8.37 (d, J = 1.6 Hz, 0.7H), 8.94 (d, J = 11.2 Hz, 0.2H), 10.33 (d, J = 11.2 Hz, 0.2H), 10.40 (s, 0.8H).

Synthesis of 2-naphthyl Isocyanide (a): compound 2 (4.95 g, 28.9 mmol) and triethylamine (27.0 mL, 193.6 mmol) were dissolved in dry THF (60 mL) under an atmosphere of nitrogen, after the mixture was cooled to 0 °C, POCl₃ (4.5 mL, 49.3 mmol) was added dropwise to the mixture, the resulting mixture was slowly warm to room temperature and stirred for 1h, then the reaction mixture was slowly poured into 50 mL saturated aqueous Na₂CO₃ and stirred at room temperature for 0.5 h, the mixture was extracted with CH₂Cl₂ (3×70 mL), the combined organic layers were washed with brine, dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄ and concentrated under reduced pressure, the residue was purified by column chromatography (neutral Al₂O₃, 12:1 hexane to ethyl acetate, v/v) to afford the desired compound **a** as a white solid (3.81 g, 86% yield). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ 6.86 (dd, J = 1.8, 8.6 Hz, 1H), 7.11-7.16 (m, 3H), 7.21 (s, 1H), 7.23-7.25 (m, 1H), 7.32-7.37 (m, 1H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz): δ 123.34, 123.88, 125.79, 127.61, 127.77, 127.96, 127.99, 129.72, 132.74, 132.86, 164.31.

Scheme S2. Synthesis of 3-isopropyloxycarbonyl phenyl isocyanide (IPI)



Synthesis of isopropyl 3-aminobenzoate (4): To a solution of 3 (3.42 g, 25 mmol) in 100 mL of $(CH_3)_2CHOH$ was slowly added 13.6 mL of aqueous con. H_2SO_4 (250 mmol) at room temperature. The mixture was refluxed for 6 h, cooled to room temperature, neutralized with a saturated K₂CO₃ aqueous solution and extracted with ethyl acetate (3 × 70 mL), the combined organic phases were washed with brine (2 × 50 mL), dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄ and concentrated in vacuo, the residue was purified by column chromatography (silica gel, 5 : 1 – 3 : 1 hexane to ethyl acetate, v/v) to afford compound **4** as a white solid (4.06 g, 91% yield). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ 7.41 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.34 (s, 1H), 7.18 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 6.83 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 5.32 – 5.13 (m, 1H), 3.77 (s, 2H), 1.34 (d, *J* = 6.3 Hz, 6H).

Synthesis of isopropyl 3-formamidobenzoate (5): the synthetic procedure was the same with that of compound **2**, and the crude product was directly used for the next step without further purification.

Synthesis of 3-isopropyloxycarbonyl phenyl isocyanide (b): the synthetic procedure was the same with that of compound **a**. (brown solid, 75% yield). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ 8.07 (dt, J = 7.7, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 8.03 (d, J = 1.5 Hz, 1H), 7.58 – 7.52 (m, 1H), 7.48 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 5.26 (dt, J = 12.5, 6.3 Hz, 1H), 1.38 (d, J = 6.3 Hz, 7H).

Scheme S3. Synthesis of 4-ethoxycarbonyl phenyl isocyanide (EPI)



Synthesis of ethyl 4-aminobenzoate (7): To a solution of 6 (3.43 g, 25 mmol) in 100 mL of EtOH was slowly added 13.6 mL of aqueous con. H₂SO₄ (250 mmol) at room temperature. The mixture was refluxed for 6 h, cooled to room temperature, neutralized with a saturated K₂CO₃ aqueous solution and extracted with ethyl acetate (3×70 mL), the combined organic phases were washed with brine (2×50 mL), dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄ and concentrated in vacuo, the residue was purified by column chromatography (silica gel, 5 : 1 - 3 : 1 hexane to ethyl acetate, v/v) to afford compound 7 as a white solid (3.90 g, 94% yield). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ 1.36 (t, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 3H), 4.06 (br, 2H), 4.31 (q, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 6.63 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 7.85 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H).

Synthesis of ethyl 4-formamidobenzoate (8): the synthetic procedure was the same with that of compound 2, and the crude product was directly used for the next step without further purification.

Synthesis of 4-ethoxycarbonyl phenyl isocyanide (c): the synthetic procedure was the same with that of compound **a**. (brown solid, 82% yield). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ 1.40 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 4.39 (q, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.43 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.43 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 8.08 (dt, *J* = 2.0, 8.8 Hz, 2H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz): δ 14.33, 61.66, 126.48, 129.94, 130.88, 131.38, 165.06, 167.10.

Scheme S4. Synthesis of (1S, 2R, 5S)-2-isopropyl-5-methylcyclohexyl 4-isocyanobenzoate (D-IMCI) and (1R, 2S, 5R)-2-isopropyl-5-methylcyclohexyl 4-isocyanobenzoate (L-IMCI)



Synthesis of (1S,2R,5S)-2-isopropyl-5-methylcyclohexyl 4-nitrobenzoate (10d): Under nitrogen atmosphere, compound 9 (1.8 g, 9.7 mmol) was dissolved in dry pyridine (20 mL), then D-menthol (1.5 g, 9.7 mmol) was added in one portion and the resulting mixture was stirred at room temperature for 16 h, after removal of pyridine under reduced pressure, the residue was dissolved in CH₂Cl₂ (30 mL) and washed with 1 N HCl, saturated NaHCO₃ aqueous solution and brine, the separated organic layer was dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄ and concentrated under

reduced pressure, the residue was purified by column chromatography (silica gel, 10 : 1 hexane to ethyl acetate, v/v) to afford the desired compound **10d** as a yellow solid (2.40 g, 81% yield) ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ 0.79 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 0.93 (t, *J* = 6.4 Hz, 6H), 0.88-0.98 (m, 1H), 1.08-1.17 (m, 2H), 1.54-1.62 (m, 2H), 1.74 (d, *J* = 12.4 Hz, 2H), 1.88-1.95 (m, 1H), 2.12 (d, *J* = 11.6 Hz, 1H), 4.97 (dt, *J* = 4.4, 11.2 Hz, 1H), 8.20 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 8.28 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H).

Synthesis of (*1S*,2*R*,5*S*)-2-isopropyl-5-methylcyclohexyl 4-aminobenzoate (11d): Under nitrogen atmosphere, compound 10d (2.40 g, 7.86 mmol) was dissolved in 30 mL of acetic acid, then iron powder (4.4 g, 78.6 mmol) was added in one portion, the resulting mixture was stirred at 70 °C overnight. Then the mixture was filtered and the filter cake was washed with ethyl acetate (20 mL), the filtrate was concentrated under reduced pressure, the residue was purified by column chromatography (silica gel, 4 : 1 hexane to ethyl acetate, v/v) to afford the desired compound 11d as yellow oil (1.61 g, 75% yield) ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ 0.78 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 0.90 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 3H), 0.91 (d, *J* = 6.4 Hz, 3H), 0.85-0.96 (m, 1H), 1.02-1.14 (m, 2H), 1.48-1.54 (m, 2H), 1.69-1.72 (m, 2H), 1.94-1.98 (m, 1H), 2.09-2.12 (m, 1H), 4.04 (s, 2H), 4.87 (dt, *J* = 4.4, 10.8 Hz, 1H), 6.63 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.85 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H).

Synthesis of (1S,2R,5S)-2-isopropyl-5-methylcyclohexyl 4-formamidobenzoate (12d): compound 11d (1.61 g, 5.85 mmol) was dissolved in a mixture of formic acid (16 mL) and acetic acid (3 mL), the resulting mixture was refluxed overnight. After the reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature, the solvents were removed under reduced pressure, the residue was washed with saturated aqueous Na₂CO₃ (10 mL) and filtered, the filter cake was washed twice with water and dried in vacuum to afford crude compound 12d as a white solid (1.70 g, crude), this compound was used directly for the next step without purification.

Synthesis of (*1S*,*2R*,*5S*)-2-isopropyl-5-methylcyclohexyl 4-isocyanobenzoate (d): compound 12d (1.70 g, crude) and triethylamine (5.2 mL, 37.5 mmol) were dissolved in dry THF (15 mL) under an atmosphere of nitrogen, after the mixture was cooled to 0 °C, POCl₃ (0.9 mL, 9.5 mmol) was added dropwise to the mixture, the resulting mixture was slowly warm to room temperature and stirred for 1h, then the reaction mixture was slowly poured into 20 mL saturated aqueous Na₂CO₃ and stirred at room temperature for 0.5 h, the mixture was extracted with CH₂Cl₂ (3 × 20 mL), the combined organic layers were washed with brine, dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄ and concentrated under reduced pressure, the residue was purified by column chromatography (neutral Al₂O₃, 12 : 1 hexane to ethyl acetate, v/v) to afford the desired compound **d** as a black syrup (1.35 g, 81% yield for two steps) ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ 0.77 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 3H), 0.91 (dd, *J* = 5.6, 6.8 Hz, 6H), 0.86-0.96 (m, 1H), 1.05-1.17 (m, 2H), 1.50-1.59 (m, 2H), 1.70-1.74 (m, 2H), 1.86-1.94 (m, 1H), 2.07-2.12 (m, 1H), 4.93 (dt, *J* = 4.4, 10.8 Hz, 1H), 7.43 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 8.07 (dt, *J* = 2.0, 8.8 Hz, 2H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz): δ 16.60, 20.82, 22.10, 23.71, 26.66, 31.53, 34.32, 40.98, 47.30, 75.75, 126.48, 129.88, 130.90, 131.74, 164.58, 167.05.

The synthesis of (1R, 2S, 5R)-2-isopropyl-5-methylcyclohexyl 4-isocyanobenzoate (e) was the same with that of (1S, 2R, 5S)-2-isopropyl-5-methylcyclohexyl 4-isocyanobenzoate (d).

Synthesis of (1R,2S,5R)-2-isopropyl-5-methylcyclohexyl 4-nitrobenzoate (10e): (yellow solid,

83% yield). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ 0.79 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, 3H), 0.93 (t, J = 6.2 Hz, 6H), 0.88-0.98 (m, 1H), 1.08-1.19 (m, 2H), 1.54-1.61 (m, 2H), 1.71-1.78 (m, 2H), 1.85-1.97 (m, 1H), 2.13 (d, J = 12.0 Hz, 1H), 4.97 (dt, J = 4.4, 10.8 Hz, 1H), 8.20 (d, J = 9.2 Hz, 2H), 8.28 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H).

Synthesis of (*IR*,*2S*,*5R*)-2-isopropyl-5-methylcyclohexyl 4-aminobenzoate (11e): (yellow oil, 72% yield). ¹H NMR (DMSO-d6, 400 MHz): δ 0.73 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 3H), 0.87 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 6H), 0.82-0.92 (m, 1H), 0.97-1.09 (m, 2H), 1.43-1.49 (m, 2H), 1.62-1.66 (m, 2H), 1.82-1.89 (m, 1H), 1.92-1.95 (m, 1H), 4.72 (dt, *J* = 4.4, 10.8 Hz, 1H), 5.92 (s, 2H), 6.56 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 7.62 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H).

Synthesis of (*1R,2S,5R*)-2-isopropyl-5-methylcyclohexyl 4-isocyanobenzoate (e): (black syrup, 80% yield). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ 0.78 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 3H), 0.92 (t, *J* = 6.4 Hz, 6H), 0.87-0.90 (m, 1H), 1.04-1.18 (m, 2H), 1.51-1.60 (m, 2H), 1.70-1.76 (m, 2H), 1.86-1.94 (m, 1H), 2.08-2.13 (m, 1H), 4.93 (dt, *J* = 4.4, 11.2 Hz, 1H), 7.43 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 8.07 (dt, *J* = 2.0, 8.8 Hz, 2H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz): δ 16.63, 20.86, 22.13, 23.74, 26.69, 31.57, 34.35, 41.01, 47.35, 75.81, 126.52, 129.92, 130.94, 131.78, 164.63, 167.03.

Scheme S5. 4-isocyano-4'-(1,2,2-triphenylvinyl)-1,1'-biphenyl (ITPB)



Synthesis of (2-(4-bromophenyl)ethene-1,1,2-triyl)tribenzene (15): Under nitrogen atmosphere, compound 14 (8.60 g, 51 mmol) was dissolved in 50 mL of dry THF, after the solution was cooled to -78 °C, n-BuLi (35 mL, 1.6 M in hexane) was added dropwise and the resulting mixture was stirred at -10 °C for 2 h, then compound 13 (11.1 g, 42.4 mmol) was added dropwise and the mixture was allowed to warmed to room temperature and stirred for 10 h. Then the reaction mixture was quenched with an aqueous solution of ammonium chloride, extracted with CH₂Cl₂ (3 × 100 mL), the combined organic layers were dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄ and evaporated to remove the solvent. The residue was dissolved in toluene (100 mL), p-toluene sulfonic acid (1.06 g, 6.20 mmol) was added, the resulting mixture was refluxed for 12 h. after the reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature, the solvent was removed under reduced pressure, the residue was purified by column chromatography (silica gel, 20 : 1 hexane to ethyl acetate, v/v) to afford the desired compound 15 as a white solid (11.7 g, 68% yield). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ 6.89 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.08 (m, 15H), 7.22 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H).

Synthesis of (4-(1,2,2-triphenylvinyl)phenyl)boronic acid (16): Under nitrogen atmosphere,

compound **15** (2 g, 4.86 mmol) was dissolved in 20 mL of dry THF, after the solution was cooled to -78 °C, *n*-BuLi (2.43 mL, 2.4 M in hexane) was added dropwise and the mixture was stirred at -78 °C for 30 min. Then a solution of trimethyl borate (0.76 g, 7.29 mmol) in dry THF (10 mL) was added dropwise, the resulting mixture was stirred at -78 °C for 30 min, then allowed to warm to room temperature and stirred overnight. The reaction mixture was quenched with 10% hydrogen chloride aqueous solution, extracted with ethyl acetate (3×30 mL), the combined organic layers were dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄ and concentrated under reduced pressure to afford crude compound **16** as white solid (2.40 g, crude), this compound was used directly for the next step without purification.

Synthesis of N-(4-iodophenyl)formamide (18): the synthetic procedure was the same with that of compound 2, and the crude product was directly used for the next step without further purification.

Synthesis of N-(4'-(1,2,2-triphenylvinyl)-[1,1'-biphenyl]-4-yl)formamide (19): Under nitrogen atmosphere, compound 16 (6 g, crude), compound 18 (3.33 g, crude) were dissolved in a mixture solvents of toluene (100 mL) and water (50 mL), then Pd(PPh₃)₄ (386 mg, 0.33 mmol), K₂CO₃ (2.75 g, 19.9 mmol) and tetrabutylammonium hydrogen sulfate (452 mg, 1.33 mmol) were added, the resulting mixture was stirred at 90 °C for 15 h. after the reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature, the organic layer was separated and the aqueous phase was extracted with ethyl acetate (3 × 80 mL), the combined organic layers were dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄ and concentrated under reduced pressure, the residue was purified by column chromatography (silica gel, 2 : 1 hexane: ethyl acetate, v/v) to afford the desired compound 19 as a light yellow solid (6.5 g). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ 7.02-7.13 (m, 18H), 7.17 (s, 0.5H), 7.31 (dd, *J* = 2.0, 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.51-7.58 (m, 3H), 7.64 (d, *J* = 11.6 Hz, 0.6H), 8.39 (d, *J* = 1.6 Hz, 0.5H), 8.71 (d, *J* = 11.6 Hz, 0.4H).

Synthesis of 4-isocyano-4'-(1,2,2-triphenylvinyl)-1,1'-biphenyl (f): the synthetic procedure was the same with that of compound **a**. (light green solid, 79% yield). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ 7.03-7.15 (m, 17H), 7.32 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.40 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.56 (dt, *J* = 1.6, 8.4, 2H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz): δ 125.50, 126.36, 126.69, 126.73, 126.76, 126.83, 127.81, 127.84, 127.90, 127.95, 131.43, 131.46, 131.50, 132.15, 137.06, 140.28, 141.75, 141.99, 143.64, 143.69, 144.02, 164.69.

A typical procedure for the polymerization of 4-ethoxycarbonyl phenyl isocyanide (EPI) (Table 1, entry 3): In the glove box, a 50 mL round bottom flask was charged with a solution of $[Ph_3C][B(C_6F_5)_4]$ (7.8 mg, 8.46 µmol) in chlorobenzene (2 mL), then Al'Bu₃ (85 µL, 85 µmol, 1 mol/L in toluene) was added, the resulting mixture was stirred at 25 °C for 1 min and then added to a solution of 4-ethoxycarbonyl phenyl isocyanide (150 mg, 0.851 mmol) in chlorobenzene (3 mL). The reaction mixture was stirred at 25 °C for 1 min, then the flask was taken out of the glove box and the reaction mixture was poured into methanol (100 mL) to precipitate the polymer product, the yellow polymer solid was collected by filtration, and dried in vacuo at 40 °C to a constant weight (132 mg, 88% yield), The product obtained is soluble thoroughly in CHCl₃ at 25 °C.

A typical procedure for the copolymerization of (1S,2R,5S)-2-isopropyl-5-methylcyclohexyl 4-isocyanobenzoate (D-IMCI) with 4-isocyano-4'-(1,2,2-triphenylvinyl)-1,1'-biphenyl (ITPB) (Table 2, entry 3): In the glove box, a 50 mL round bottom flask was charged with a solution of [Ph₃C][B(C₆F₅)₄] (2.1 mg, 2.3 µmol) in chlorobenzene (2 mL), then Al⁷Bu₃ (23 µL, 23 µmol, 1 mol/L in toluene) was added, the resulting mixture was stirred at 25 °C for 3 min, then a solution of (1S,2R,5S)-2-isopropyl-5-methylcyclohexyl 4-isocyanobenzoate (66 mg, 0.23 mmol) and 4-isocyano-4'-(1,2,2-triphenylvinyl)-1,1'-biphenyl (100 mg, 0.23 mmol) in chlorobenzene (3 mL) was added, the reaction mixture was stirred at 25 °C for 3 min, then the flask was taken out of the glove box and the reaction mixture was poured into methanol (100 mL) to precipitate the copolymer product, the orange copolymer solid was collected by filtration, and dried in vacuo at 40 °C to a constant weight (86 mg, 52% yield), The product obtained is soluble thoroughly in CHCl₃ and THF at 25 °C.

A typical procedure for the copolymerization of (1S,2R,5S)-2-isopropyl-5-methylcyclohexyl 4-isocyanobenzoate (D-IMCI) with 3-isopropyloxycarbonyl phenyl isocyanide (IPI) (Table 2, entry 13): In the glove box, a 50 mL round bottom flask was charged with a solution of [Ph₃C][B(C₆F₅)₄] (2.1 mg, 2.3 µmol) in chlorobenzene (2 mL), then Al⁷Bu₃ (23 µL, 23 µmol, 1 mol/L in toluene) was added, the resulting mixture was stirred at 25 °C for 3 min, then a solution of (1S,2R,5S)-2-isopropyl-5-methylcyclohexyl 4-isocyanobenzoate (66 mg, 0.23 mmol) and 3-isopropyloxycarbonyl phenyl isocyanide (44 mg, 0.23 mmol) in chlorobenzene (3 mL) was added, the reaction mixture was stirred at 25 °C for 3 min, then the flask was taken out of the glove box and the reaction mixture was poured into methanol (100 mL) to precipitate the copolymer product, the orange copolymer solid was collected by filtration, and dried in vacuo at 40 °C to a constant weight (76 mg, 70% yield), The product obtained is soluble thoroughly in CHCl₃ and THF at 25 °C.

Calculation of the IMCI contents of the copolymers

The IMCI contents of poly(D-IMCI-*co*-ITPB)s and poly(L-IMCI-*co*-ITPB)s were calculated from the ¹H NMR spectra according to the following formula:

 $Mol \ IMCI \ \% = \{ [23(I_{H3} + I_{H4})] / [19(I_{H1} + I_{H2} + I_{H3} + I_{H4})] \} \times 100$

In which I_{H1} is the integration of the peak at 7.08 ppm which assigned to the aryl protons of ITPB units and the β -H of the aryl ring of IMCI units. I_{H2} is the integration of the peak at 5.82 ppm which assigned to the α -H of the aryl ring of IMCI units. I_{H3} is the integration of the peak at 4.88 ppm ascribed to the proton of the cyclohexyl carbon connected with the oxygen. I_{H4} is the integration of the peaks between 0.3 to 2.5 ppm which assigned to the rest protons of the cyclohexyl group as well as the substituted methyl and the isopropy.

The IMCI contents of poly(D-IMCI-*co*-IPI)s and poly(L-IMCI-*co*-IPI)s were calculated from the ¹H NMR spectra according to the following formula:

Mol IMCI % = { $[5 \times I_{H4} - 6(I_{H1} + I_{H2} + I_{H3})]/[12(I_{H1} + I_{H2} + I_{H3})]$ × 100

In which I_{H1} is the integration of the peak at 7.08 ppm which assigned to the aryl protons of IPI units and the H of the aryl ring of IMCI units. I_{H2} is the integration of the peak at 5.82 ppm which assigned to the H of the aryl ring of IMCI units. I_{H3} is the integration of the peak at 4.88 ppm

ascribed to the proton of the cyclohexyl carbon connected with the oxygen and the proton of the isopropyl carbon connected with the oxygen. I_{H4} is the integration of the peaks between 0.3 to 2.5 ppm which assigned to the rest protons of the cyclohexyl group as well as the substituted methyl and the isopropy and the rest protons of the isopropyl.

Solvent separation experiments

4 mg of poly(D-IMCI) or poly(L-IMCI) was added into 1.5 mL of toluene, the mixture was shaken for about 1 min and all of the solid dissolved in toluene completely. 4 mg of poly(ITPB) or poly(IPI) was added into 1.5 mL of toluene and exhibited poor solubility, after shaken for about 1 hour there was still some solid precipitated in the solution. Then 6 mg of the copolymer product (Table 2, entry 3 and Table 2, entry 18) was added into 6 mL of toluene, the mixture was shaken for about 5 min and the solid dissolved in toluene completely.



Figure S1. Photos of solubility of poly(D-IMCI) (A-B, left), poly(ITPB) (A-B, right), copolymer product (Table 2, entry 3) (C-D) in toluene, poly(L-IMCI) (E-F, left), poly(IPI) (E-F, right), copolymer product (Table 2, entry 18) (G-H) in toluene.



Figure S2. ¹H NMR spectrum of N-(naphthalen-2-yl)formamide (2) in DMSO-d6 at 25 °C.



Figure S3. ¹H NMR spectrum of 2-naphthyl isocyanide (a) in CDCl₃ at 25 °C.



Figure S5. ¹H NMR spectrum of 3-isopropyloxycarbonyl phenyl isocyanide (**b**) in $CDCl_3$ at 25 °C.



Figure S6. ¹H NMR spectrum of ethyl 4-aminobenzoate (7) in CDCl₃ at 25 °C.



Figure S7. ¹H NMR spectrum of 4-ethoxycarbonyl phenyl isocyanide (c) in CDCl₃ at 25 °C.



Figure S9. ¹H NMR spectrum of (1S, 2R, 5S)-2-isopropyl-5-methylcyclohexyl 4-isocyanobenzoate (**d**) in CDCl₃ at 25 °C.



4-isocyanobenzoate (d) in CDCl₃ at 25 °C.



Figure S11. ¹H NMR spectrum of (1R, 2S, 5R)-2-isopropyl-5-methylcyclohexyl 4-isocyanobenzoate (**e**) in CDCl₃ at 25 °C.



Figure S13. ¹H NMR spectrum of 4-isocyano-4'-(1,2,2-triphenylvinyl)-1,1'-biphenyl (**f**) in CDCl₃ at 25 °C.

- 164.69 144.02 143.69 143.69 143.64 143.64 141.75 141.75 141.75 141.75 132.15 132.15 132.15 132.15 132.15 132.15 132.15 132.15 132.15 132.15 132.15 132.15 132.15 125.66 125.73 125.66 125.73 125.66 125.73 125.66 125.73 125.66 125.73 125.66 125.73 125.66 125.73 125.66 125.73 125.66 125.73 125.66 125.73 125.66 125.73 125.66 125.73 125.66 125.73 125.66 125.73 125.74 125.73 125.75 125.73 125.75



Figure S14. ¹³C NMR spectrum of 4-isocyano-4'-(1,2,2-triphenylvinyl)-1,1'-biphenyl (**f**) in CDCl₃ at 25 °C.



Figure S15. ¹H NMR spectrum of polymers (a) poly(EPI) (Table 1, entry 3), (b) poly(ITPB) (Table 1, entry 6), (c) poly(D-IMCI) (Table 1, entry 4), (d) poly(L-IMCI) (Table 1, entry 5), (e) poly(IPI) (Table 1, entry 2) in CDCl₃ at 25 °C.



Figure S16. ¹H NMR spectra of poly(D-IMCI-*co*-ITPB)s and poly(D-IMCI) (Table 1, entry 4 and Table 2, entries 1-5)



Figure S17. ¹H NMR spectra of poly(L-IMCI-*co*-ITPB)s and poly(L-IMCI) (Table 1, entry 5 and Table 2, entries 6-10)



Figure S18. ¹H NMR spectra of poly(D-IMCI-*co*-IPI)s and poly(D-IMCI) (Table 1, entry 4 and Table 2, entries 11-15)



9.5 9.0 8.5 8.0 7.5 7.0 6.5 6.0 5.5 5.0 4.5 4.0 3.5 3.0 2.5 2.0 1.5 1.0 0.5 0.0 -0.8 ppm

Figure S19. ¹H NMR spectra of poly(L-IMCI-*co*-IPI)s and poly(L-IMCI) (Table 1, entry 5 and Table 2, entries 16-20)



Figure S20. FT-IR spectra of (A) EPI, (B) ITPB, (C) D-IMCI, (D) L-IMCI and (E) IPI.



Figure S21. FT-IR spectra of (A) poly(EPI), (B) poly(ITPB), (C) poly(D-IMCI), (D) poly(L-IMCI) and (E) poly(IPI).



Figure S22. AIE nature characterization of (A) ITPB monomer and it corresponding (B) poly(ITPB) (Table 1, entry 6) in THF/water mixture. The UV absorption spectra with the water fraction in THF/water mixture ranging from 0 to 90% (left side). The UV/Vis transmittance spectra with the water fraction in THF/water mixture ranging from 0 to 90% (right side).



Figure S23. Plots of fluorescence intensity vs water fraction in THF/water mixture (0.01 mol of ITPB unit/mL). (A) poly(D-IMCI-*co*-ITPB) (Table 2, entry 1), (B) poly(D-IMCI-*co*-ITPB) (Table 2, entry 2), (C) poly(D-IMCI-*co*-ITPB) (Table 2, entry 3), (D) poly(L-IMCI-*co*-ITPB) (Table 2, entry 5), (E) poly(L-IMCI-*co*-ITPB) (Table 2, entry 7), (F) poly(L-IMCI-*co*-ITPB) (Table 2, entry 8), (G) poly(L-IMCI-*co*-ITPB) (Table 2, entry 9), (H) poly(L-IMCI-*co*-ITPB) (Table 2, entry 10) (conditions for A-H: EX wavelength: 290 nm, EX slit: 5 nm, EM slit: 5 nm, 700 V)



Figure S24. AIE nature characterization of (A) poly(D-IMCI-*co*-ITPB) (Table 2, entry 1), (B) poly(D-IMCI-*co*-ITPB) (Table 2, entry 2), (C) poly(D-IMCI-*co*-ITPB) (Table 2, entry 3), (D) poly(D-IMCI-*co*-ITPB) (Table 2, entry 4), (E) poly(D-IMCI-*co*-ITPB) (Table 2, entry 5) in THF/water mixture. The UV absorption spectra with the water fraction in THF/water mixture ranging from 0 to 90% (left side). The UV/Vis transmittance spectra with the water fraction in THF/water mixture ranging from 0 to 90% (right side).



Figure S25. AIE nature characterization of (A) poly(L-IMCI-*co*-ITPB) (Table 2, entry 6), (B) poly(L-IMCI-*co*-ITPB) (Table 2, entry 7), (C) poly(L-IMCI-*co*-ITPB) (Table 2, entry 8), (D) poly(L-IMCI-*co*-ITPB) (Table 2, entry 9), (E) poly(L-IMCI-*co*-ITPB) (Table 2, entry 10) in THF/water mixture. The UV absorption spectra with the water fraction in THF/water mixture ranging from 0 to 90% (left side). The UV/Vis transmittance spectra with the water fraction in THF/water mixture ranging from 0 to 90% (right side).



Figure S26. AIE nature characterization of ITPB monomer and it corresponding poly(ITPB) (Table 1, entry 6) in THF/water mixture. (A) Dynamic light scattering measurement of ITPB at 0% water fraction in THF-water mixture (left side) and at 80% water fraction in THF-water mixture (right side). (B) Dynamic light scattering measurement of poly(ITPB) at 0% water fraction in THF-water mixture (left side) and at 50% water fraction in THF-water mixture (right side).



Figure S27. AIE nature characterization of poly(D-IMCI-*co*-ITPB)s in THF/water mixture. (A) Dynamic light scattering measurement of poly(D-IMCI-*co*-ITPB) (Table 2, entry 1) at 0% water fraction in THF-water mixture (left side) and at 50% water fraction in THF-water mixture (right side). (B) Dynamic light scattering measurement of poly(D-IMCI-*co*-ITPB) (Table 2, entry 2) at 0% water fraction in THF-water mixture (left side) and at 50% water fraction in THF-water mixture (right side). (C) Dynamic light scattering measurement of poly(D-IMCI-*co*-ITPB) (Table 2, entry 3) at 0% water fraction in THF-water mixture (left side) and at 50% water fraction in THF-water mixture (left side) and at 50% water fraction in THF-water mixture (left side) and at 50% water fraction in THF-water mixture (left side) and at 50% water fraction in THF-water mixture (left side) and at 50% water fraction in THF-water mixture (left side). (D) Dynamic light scattering measurement of poly(D-IMCI-*co*-ITPB) (Table 2, entry 4) at 0% water fraction in THF-water mixture (left side) and at 60% water fraction in THF-water mixture (right side). (E) Dynamic light scattering measurement of poly(D-IMCI-*co*-ITPB) (Table 2, entry 5) at 0% water fraction in THF-water mixture (left side) and at 60% water fraction in THF-water mixture (right side). (E) Dynamic light scattering measurement of poly(D-IMCI-*co*-ITPB) (Table 2, entry 5) at 0% water fraction in THF-water mixture (left side) and at 60% water fraction in THF-water mixture (right side).



Figure S28. AIE nature characterization of poly(L-IMCI-*co*-ITPB)s in THF/water mixture. (A) Dynamic light scattering measurement of poly(L-IMCI-*co*-ITPB) (Table 2, entry 6) at 0% water fraction in THF-water mixture (left side) and at 70% water fraction in THF-water mixture (right side). (B) Dynamic light scattering measurement of poly(L-IMCI-*co*-ITPB) (Table 2, entry 7) at 0% water fraction in THF-water mixture (left side) and at 60% water fraction in THF-water mixture (right side). (C) Dynamic light scattering measurement of poly(L-IMCI-*co*-ITPB) (Table 2, entry 8) at 0% water fraction in THF-water mixture (left side) and at 60% water fraction in THF-water fraction in THF-water mixture (left side) and at 60% water fraction in THF-water mixture (left side) and at 60% water fraction in THF-water mixture (left side) and at 60% water fraction in THF-water mixture (left side) and at 50% water fraction in THF-water mixture (right side). (E) Dynamic light scattering measurement of poly(L-IMCI-*co*-ITPB) (Table 2, entry 10) at 0% water fraction in THF-water mixture (left side) and at 50% water fraction in THF-water mixture (right side). (E) Dynamic light scattering measurement of poly(L-IMCI-*co*-ITPB) (Table 2, entry 10) at 0% water fraction in THF-water mixture (left side) and at 60% water fraction in THF-water mixture (right side). (E) Dynamic light scattering measurement of poly(L-IMCI-*co*-ITPB) (Table 2, entry 10) at 0% water fraction in THF-water mixture (left side) and at 60% water fraction in THF-water mixture (right side).



Figure S29. FT-IR spectrum of NI and the compound obtained from the reaction of Al^iBu_3 /activator with 4 equiv. of NI.



Figure S30. High resolution ESI-MS spectra of NI oligomer obtained by the Al^{*i*}Bu₃/activator binary systems in PhCl.



Figure S31. GPC curve of poly(IPI) obtained by cationic Aluminum complex in Table 1, entry 2.



	Broad Unknown Relative Peak Table										
	Distributionn	Mn	Mw	Мр	Mz	nalydianaraity	Mz/Mw				
	Name	(Daltons)	(Daltons)	(Daltons)	(Daltons)	polydispersity					
1		175702	608228	355534	1573708	3.46170	2.58736				

Figure S32. GPC curve of poly(EPI) obtained by cationic Aluminum complex in Table 1, entry 3.



Figure S33. GPC curve of poly(D-IMCI) obtained by cationic Aluminum complex in Table 1, entry 4.



Figure S34. GPC curve of poly(L-IMCI) obtained by cationic Aluminum complex in Table 1, entry 5.



Figure S35. GPC curve of poly(ITPB) obtained by cationic Aluminum complex in Table 1, entry 6.



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	Distributionn Name	Mn (Daltons)	Mw (Daltons)	Mp (Daltons)	Mz (Daltons)	polydispersity	Mz/Mw
1		92384	335743	219647	908251	3.63421	2.70520

Figure S36. GPC curve of poly(EPI) obtained by cationic Aluminum complex in Table 1, entry 7.



	Distributionn	Mn	Mw	Мр	Mz	naludianaraitu	Mz/Mw
	Name	(Daltons)	(Daltons)	(Daltons)	(Daltons)	polydispersity	
1		63859	349503	185478	1410692	5.47304	4.03628

Figure S37. GPC curve of poly(EPI) obtained by cationic Aluminum complex in Table 1, entry 8.



	Broad Unknown Relative Peak Table										
	Distributionn	Mn	Mw	Мр	Mz	n a budian avaituu	Mz/Mw				
	Name	(Daltons)	(Daltons)	(Daltons)	(Daltons)	polyalspersity					
1		232934	682225	396842	1593774	2.92883	2.33614				





Broad	Unknown	Relative	Peak	Table
	•••••••			

	Distributionn	Mn	Mw	Мр	Mz	naludianarsitu	Mz/Mw
	Name	(Daltons)	(Daltons)	(Daltons)	(Daltons)	polydispersity	
1		176735	686862	386399	2046966	3.88639	2.98017

Figure S39. GPC curve of poly(EPI) obtained by cationic Aluminum complex in Table 1, entry 10.



Broad	Unknown	Relative	Peak	Table

	Distributionn	Mn	Mw	Мр	Mz	polydispersity	M7/MW
	Name	(Daltons)	(Daltons)	(Daltons)	(Daltons)	polydisperatcy	1012/10100
1		188042	685364	420833	1788946	3.64474	2.61021

Figure S40. GPC curve of poly(EPI) obtained by cationic Aluminum complex in Table 1, entry 11.



Broad Unknown Relative Peak Table

	Distributionn	Mn	Mw	Мр	Mz	polydispersity	Mz/Mw
	Name	(Daltons)	(Daltons)	(Daltons)	(Daltons)	p = . , = ,	,
1		256918	642866	424145	1356625	2.50222	2.11028

Figure S41. GPC curve of poly(EPI) obtained by cationic Aluminum complex in Table 1, entry 12.



	Distributionn	Mn	Mw	Мр	Mz	polydispersity	Mz/Mw
	Name	(Daltons)	(Daltons)	(Daltons)	(Daltons)		
1		165129	899032	600807	2724886	5.44442	3.03091

Figure S42. GPC curve of poly(EPI) obtained by cationic Aluminum complex in Table 1, entry 13.



	Distributionn	Mn	Mw	Мр	Mz	polydispersity	N4= / N404
	Name	(Daltons)	(Daltons)	(Daltons)	(Daltons)		1012/10100
1		189312	745486	493060	2163595	3.93787	2.90226

Figure S43. GPC curve of poly(EPI) obtained by cationic Aluminum complex in Table 1, entry 14.



Broad Unknown Relative Peak Tabl

	Distributionn	Mn	Mw	Мр	Mz	polydispersity	Mz/Mw
	Name	(Daltons)	(Daltons)	(Daltons)	(Daltons)		
1		142084	462844	292881	1140673	3.25754	2.46448

Figure S44. GPC curve of poly(EPI) obtained by cationic Aluminum complex in Table 1, entry



Broad Unknown Relative Peak Table

	Distributionn	Mn	Mw	Мр	Mz	noludionomitu	N4= /N4++		
	Name	(Daltons)	(Daltons)	(Daltons)	(Daltons)	polydispersity	1V12/1V1W		
1		83402	267113	193797	630258	3.20272	2.35952		

Figure S45. GPC curve of poly(EPI) obtained by cationic Aluminum complex in Table 1, entry 16.



Broad Unknown Relative Peak Table

	Distributionn	Mn	Mw	Мр	Mz	polydispersity	Mz/Mw
	Name	(Daltons)	(Daltons)	(Daltons)	(Daltons)		
1		67643	219321	139692	606268	3.24233	2.76430

Figure S46. GPC curve of poly(EPI) obtained by cationic Aluminum complex in Table 1, entry



Broad	Unknown	Relative	Peak	Table
DI 0 4 4	O O			

	Distributionn Name	Mn (Daltons)	Mw (Daltons)	Mp (Daltons)	Mz (Daltons)	polydispersity	Mz/Mw
1		45276	123026	90410	256303	2.71724	2.08332

Figure S47. GPC curve of poly(EPI) obtained by cationic Aluminum complex in Table 1, entry 18.



Figure S48. GPC curve of poly(D-IMCI-co-ITPB) obtained by cationic Aluminum complex in

Table 2, entry 1.



Figure S49. GPC curve of poly(D-IMCI-*co*-ITPB) obtained by cationic Aluminum complex in Table 2, entry 2.



Figure S50. GPC curve of poly(D-IMCI-co-ITPB) obtained by cationic Aluminum complex in

Table 2, entry 3.



Figure S51. GPC curve of poly(D-IMCI-*co*-ITPB) obtained by cationic Aluminum complex in Table 2, entry 4.



Figure S52. GPC curve of poly(D-IMCI-co-ITPB) obtained by cationic Aluminum complex in

Table 2, entry 5.



Figure S53. GPC curve of poly(L-IMCI-*co*-ITPB) obtained by cationic Aluminum complex in Table 2, entry 6.



Figure S54. GPC curve of poly(L-IMCI-*co*-ITPB) obtained by cationic Aluminum complex in Table 2, entry 7.



Figure S55. GPC curve of poly(L-IMCI-*co*-ITPB) obtained by cationic Aluminum complex in Table 2, entry 8.



Figure S56. GPC curve of poly(L-IMCI-*co*-ITPB) obtained by cationic Aluminum complex in Table 2, entry 9.



Figure S57. GPC curve of poly(L-IMCI-*co*-ITPB) obtained by cationic Aluminum complex in Table 2, entry 10.



Figure S58. GPC curve of poly(D-IMCI-*co*-IPI) obtained by cationic Aluminum complex in Table 2, entry 11.



Figure S59. GPC curve of poly(D-IMCI-*co*-IPI) obtained by cationic Aluminum complex in Table 2, entry 12.



Figure S60. GPC curve of poly(D-IMCI-*co*-IPI) obtained by cationic Aluminum complex in Table 2, entry 13.



Figure S61. GPC curve of poly(D-IMCI-*co*-IPI) obtained by cationic Aluminum complex in Table 2, entry 14.



Figure S62. GPC curve of poly(D-IMCI-*co*-IPI) obtained by cationic Aluminum complex in Table 2, entry 15.



Figure S63. GPC curve of poly(L-IMCI-*co*-IPI) obtained by cationic Aluminum complex in Table 2, entry 16.



Figure S64. GPC curve of poly(L-IMCI-*co*-IPI) obtained by cationic Aluminum complex in Table 2, entry 17.



Figure S65. GPC curve of poly(L-IMCI-*co*-IPI) obtained by cationic Aluminum complex in Table 2, entry 18.



Figure S66. GPC curve of poly(L-IMCI-*co*-IPI) obtained by cationic Aluminum complex in Table 2, entry 19.



Figure S67. GPC curve of poly(L-IMCI-*co*-IPI) obtained by cationic Aluminum complex in Table 2, entry 20.