## **Supplementary Information**

## Interactions of Newly designed Dicationic carbazole derivatives with Double-Stranded DNA: Syntheses, Binding Studies and AFM imaging

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Fig.S1 Fluorescence spectra of DPDI (A) and DPPDI (C) in aqueous solutions with four different ionic strengths. Fluorescence intensity of maximum emissions changes over time for DPDI (B) and DPPDI (D). [dicationic carbazoles] =0.1  $\mu$ M. The different ionic strengths of 10<sup>-4</sup> M, 10<sup>-3</sup> M, 10<sup>-2</sup> M, 10<sup>-1</sup> M were adjusted by NaCl.



Fig. S2. Fluorescence spectra of EB (2  $\mu$ M) and DNA (5  $\mu$ M) with the increase of DPDI ((A) ionic strength of 10<sup>-3</sup> M and (B) ionic strength of 10<sup>-4</sup> M) and DPPDI ((C) ionic strength of 10<sup>-3</sup> M and (D) ionic strength of 10<sup>-4</sup> M). [DPDI] or [DPPDI]= 0, 3.33, 6.67, 10.00, 13.33, 16.67, 20.00, 23.33, 26.67, 30.00  $\mu$ M.



Fig.S3. Synthesis of the two dicationic carbazoles

## Spectroscopic data about three synthetic compounds

1. 5-phenyl-5H-pyrrolo[3,2-c:4,5-c']dipyridine (Fig. S4-6)



Fig. S4. <sup>1</sup>H NMR of 5-phenyl-5H-pyrrolo[3,2-c:4,5-c']dipyridine



Fig. S5. <sup>13</sup>C NMR of 5-phenyl-5H-pyrrolo[3,2-c:4,5-c']dipyridine



Fig. S6. HRMS of 5-phenyl-5H-pyrrolo[3,2-c:4,5-c']dipyridine

2. 2,8-Dimethyl-5H-pyrrolo[3,2-c:4,5-c']dipyridinium diiodide (DPDI) (Fig. S7-10)









Fig. S9. MS of DPDI



Fig. S10. MS2 of 451.9

3. 2,8-Dimethyl-5-phenyl-5H-pyrrolo[3,2-c:4,5-c']dipyridinium diiodide (DPDI) (Fig. S11-13)



Fig. S11. <sup>1</sup>H NMR of DPPDI



Fig. S12. <sup>13</sup>C NMR of DPPDI



Fig. S13. HRMS of DPPDI