## Electronic Supplementary Information

## Efficient tailoring the surface of upconversion nanoparticle *via* surface-initiated cationic ring-opening polymerization

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Fig. S1



Fig. S1. FTIR spectrum of UCNP-OH.





**Fig. S2**. Photographs of UCNP-g-PCL2 (a) and UCNP-g-HPG (b) in the mixture of water and chloroform under daylight (left) and 980 nm laser illumination (right).

Fig. S3



**Fig. S3**. Representative TEM image of UCNP-*g*-PCL/PMMA film.

Fig.	<b>S4</b>
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**Fig. S4**. Hydrodynamic radius distribution of freshly prepared aqueous dispersion of UCNP-OH (a) and UCNP-g-HPG (c) at a concentration of 0.1 mg/mL. Hydrodynamic radius distribution of aqueous dispersion of UCNP-OH (b) and UCNP-g-HPG (d) after 12 h.





**Fig. S5**. Emission spectrum of UCNP-*g*-HPG-RB in aqueous solution ( $\lambda_{ex} = 545$  nm). Inset: photograph of UCNP-*g*-HPG-RB (0.5 mg/mL) in water under 365 nm UV-light illumination.

Fig. S6



**Fig. S6**. (a) Normalized upconversion emission spectra ( $\lambda_{ex} = 980$  nm) of UCNP-*g*-HPG and UCNP-*g*-HPG-RB. (b) Upconversion emission spectra ( $\lambda_{ex} = 980$  nm) of UCNP-*g*-HPG and UCNP-*g*-HPG-RB.