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## **Supporting Information**

## Water-soluble hybrid materials based on $\{Mo_6X_8\}^{4+}$ (X = Cl, Br, I) cluster complexes and sodium polystyrene sulfonate

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**Figure S1.** UV-vis spectra of PSS and  $\{Mo_6Cl_8\}^n$ @PSS (*n* = 1, 5, 10, 100) in aqueous solution.



**Figure S2.** UV-vis spectra of PSS and  $\{Mo_6Br_8\}^n$ @PSS (n = 1, 5, 10, 100) in aqueous solution.



**Figure S3.** UV-vis spectra of PSS and  $\{Mo_6I_8\}^n$ @PSS (n = 1, 5, 10, 100) in aqueous solution.



**Figure S4.** FTIR-spectra of PSS and  $\{Mo_6Cl_8\}^n$ @PSS (*n* = 1, 5, 10, 100).



**Figure S5.** FTIR-spectra of PSS and  $\{Mo_6Br_8\}^n$ @PSS (*n* = 1, 5, 10, 100).



**Figure S6.** FTIR-spectra of PSS and {Mo<sub>6</sub>I<sub>8</sub>}<sup>*n*</sup>@PSS (*n* = 1, 5, 10, 100).



Figure S7. FTIR-spectra of PSS,  $(Bu_4N)_2[\{Mo_6I_8\}(NO_3)_6]$  and  $\{Mo_6I_8\}^{100}$ @PSS.



**Figure S8.** UV-vis spectra of pure PSS and after treatment with  $(Bu_4N)_2[\{MO_6I_8\}(OOCCH_3)_6]$ .





**Figure S10.** Mo concentration: calculated (black) and based on ICP-AES data (red) for  $\{Mo_6Br_8\}^n @PSS (n = 1, 5, 10, 100).$ 



**Figure S11.** Mo concentration: calculated (black) and based on ICP-AES data (red) for  $\{Mo_6I_8\}^n @PSS (n = 1, 5, 10, 100).$ 



**Figure S12.** Emission spectra of {Mo<sub>6</sub>X<sub>8</sub>}<sup>100</sup>@PSS normalized on maximum of PSS emission in aerated aqueous solution.



**Figure S13.** Emission spectra of {Mo<sub>6</sub>X<sub>8</sub>}<sup>100</sup>@PSS normalized on maximum of PSS emission in deaerated aqueous solution.



## **Fluorescent intensity**

**Figure S14.** Cellular uptake of  $\{Mo_6X_8\}^{100}$ @PSS determined by FACS. Representative flow cytometry histogram plot of Hela (left) and Hep-2 (right) cells incubated for 24 hours with  $\{Mo_6X_8\}^{100}$ @PSS. Excitation wavelength – 488 nm; emission filter – 695 nm.