## **Supporting Information**

## Breaking the 1,2-HOPO barrier with a cyclen backbone for more efficient sensitization of Eu(III) luminescence and unprecedented two-photon excitation properties

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Figure S27. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of compound **6** in d<sup>6</sup>-DMSO.



Figure S28. <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of compound **6** in d<sup>6</sup>-DMSO.



Figure S29. <sup>19</sup>F NMR spectrum of compound 6 in d<sup>6</sup>-DMSO.



Figure S30. RP-HPLC trace of complex Eu-Cy-HOPO (350 nm)



Retention Time (min)	% Area
6.465	2.14
7.071	7.53
7.751	89.64
9.560	0.68

Figure S31. RP-HPLC trace of complex Sm-Cy-HOPO (350 nm).



Figure S32. RP-HPLC trace of complex Gd-Cy-HOPO (350 nm).



Figure S33. Comparison of IR spectra of ligand 4 and complexes of Eu-Cy-HOPO, Sm-Cy-HOPO and Gd-Cy-HOPO.



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Figure S35. Dependence of luminescence intensity on incident power of **Eu-Cy-HOPO** in DMSO.



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Figure S37. Dependence of luminescence intensity on incident power of **Eu-Cy-TTA** in DMSO.



 $\lambda$  / nm

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Figure S40. Bright field (left) and fluorescent microscopy image (middle) and overlaid image of **Sm-Cy-HOPO** (40  $\mu$ M) in HeLa cells after 3 hours of incubation.



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