Electronic Supplementary Material (ESI) for Journal of Materials Chemistry B. This journal is © The Royal Society of Chemistry 2014

Supporting Information

## A general top-down approach to synthesize rare earth doped-Gd<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> nanocrystals

## as dualmodal contrast agents

Ningqi Luo, Chuan Yang, Xiumei Tian, Jun Xiao, Jun Liu, Fei Chen, Donghui Zhang, Dekang Xu, Yueli Zhang, Guowei Yang, Dihu Chen, and Li Li



Figure S1 (a) Experimental setup of Laser Ablation in Liquid (LAL). (b) Active species ejected from the target after energy absorption of the focused laser. (c) Nanoparticles formed from the active species aggregation.

## Supporting Information



Figure S2. Emission spectra of  $Gd_2O_3$ :  $Eu^{3+}$  colloid,  $Gd_2O_3$  and  $Eu_2O_3$  mixture,  $Eu_3O_3$  colloid,  $Gd_2O_3$  colloid, background deionized water, and  $Gd_2O_3$ :  $Eu^{3+}$  target respectively.



Figure S3 Cell viability of RAW264.7, S18, and PC12 cells after co-incubation with different concentrations of Gd2O3:Eu3+ nanoparticles ( $10\mu$ M,  $1\mu$ M and 100nM Gd ion concentrations) for 48h, compared with Gd-DTPA ( $10\mu$ M), negative control (DMEM), and positive control (5%DMSO).

## Supporting Information



Figure S4. In vivo MRI of a NPC CNE-2 xenografted tumor. Before (a), 10min (b), 20min (c), 35min (d), 50min (e), and 70min(f) after injection of the  $Gd_2O_3$ :Eu<sup>3+</sup> nanoparticles (15 µmol kg<sup>-1</sup>). The tumor get the best imaging enhancement after 35min of the particle injection.