BETA Testing for “Special Needs”

BETA testing is underway at Alpha Resource Center in Santa Barbara, California. Alpha_SB is a multi-faceted service center providing support and information for families of children with developmental disabilities of all ages, teen and adult recreation, and life skills training for adults.

Special Needs therapists and teachers here will experiment with product usage and methodology, make recommendations, and certify these systems. Healing practitioners of many kinds will have their chance to see how it complements existing therapies and services as well, and what opportunities exist for new applications.

This BETA program will also help us to develop appropriate methods of product use, integration with other systems and the creation of specialized control interfaces for persons facing various challenges.

MSS being loaded from vehicle into one of Alpha Resource Center’s buildings.

Julie Badella
Director of Program Services
18 years at Alpha, trained in Snow-zelen. “This is a phenomenal thing...I see this has huge value...huge value for people.”

Nancy Frausto
Assistant Manager/Participant Advocate
“We see the difference...it really helps them relax. Something like this would really, really help our people.”

Albert Covarrubias
Direct Support Professional
...a stepping stone to pure relaxation. I was really impressed how fast I relaxed...how fast I got into the environment you were setting for me. It was only five minutes but the best five minutes I’ve ever had.”

Doug Nelson, Inventor and Julie Badella, Director discuss the possibilities!

The crew sampled the experience first, learning about the system and its software “Journeys” so they could determine the best uses for their Special Needs participants.

Julie continues, “When the staff get excited about the participants and what they are experiencing you know that it’s very good...especially with people so limited in their mobility. You saw it on their faces. That was very valuable to them.”

Nellie Just
Direct Support Professional
...at the end I was like, ‘I wasn’t sure I was going to like it but wow...I was impressed!’

On the Web: http://MultisensorySystems.com

Email: http://multisensorysystems.com/?page_id=9
Albert describes advantages for those with limited mobility

“This is really a good tool for therapy and for rehabilitation for people who can’t get out into places where their wheelchairs can’t get out to.”

“This (MSS) creates that little environment for them, their own personal space at home, or hospital, or retirement community where their ability to walk, their ability to go to places, is (virtually) available to them as they would want it to be. This is great… awesome.”

“The participants really liked it. A lot of the people in wheelchairs I thought really enjoyed it just from the smiles and actual emotions that they were showing… when excited they start to move around really enjoying their environment.”

“A couple of guys in wheelchairs were just loving it… with huge smiles, really calming down and enjoying it.”

“From seeing them do it... I really, really want them to do it again”
This "Journeyer" was lifted and lowered by rolling crane and harness into the MSS system chair.

Sometimes special methods are required for special individuals to access the system. Continued BETA testing will help us to make access easier and more flexible.

Albert imagines, “She is in a retirement home or hospital and she loves the beach and maybe the beach is one thing that relaxes her. This is a great alternative for her or for anybody. Honestly… just close your eyes and you are there definitely there.”

This person enjoyed an experience without having to leave her wheelchair. The separated right left vibroacoustics could be felt through the body from the feet. The aromaComposer, with volume turned up, has no problem beaming scent six to eight feet away. The 3D sound was enjoyed via quality headphones.
Staff Comments and Discussion

The AlphaSB staff really knows their clientele/participants. An intimate family-like connection and very caring and attentive staff. The following notes describe one participant, a man with Cerebral palsy (CP)

Nancy: “Chris for example... is someone who doesn’t want to get out of his chair... and he waited... and that’s not Chris... .... And you can tell he really liked it.... That was really Awesome. Thank you guys.”

Julie: “Awesome... Awesome... This is amazing. Chris was so affected by that... that is an amazing thing for him to experience.”

Julie: “Really Phenomenal. What’s interesting is that he (Chris) does not like being out of his wheelchair... because he is vulnerable and he loses all independence... he has a (self-controlled) motor chair and is fairly independent... He hates getting out of his chair... He hates earphones... He hates them... but he was watching and he was willing (After his experience)... he didn’t want to get up... he didn’t want to take them off (earphones)... HE SMILED...and just so relaxed...and that now his head was back... typically his head is here (in a forward stooped position)... (it is now) Back ... that was like an amazing experience... amazing... just amazing. Thank you for bringing this here. We would love you to come more!”

Julie: “This is a phenomenal thing... I see this has huge value... huge value for people... Especially people... so limited like Chris in his mobility. In the things he can feel... You saw it on his face. That was very valuable to him.”

Julie: “...you come up with the means to stimulate (that section of) the frontal lobe and then you have a treatment for OCD that’s not medication... and not damaging the rest of the body. There’s huge potential!”

Julie: “I’ve never seen anything like it. It’s wonderful. I want one.”
BETA Testing for Seniors with “Special Needs”

Multisensory Stimulation System V1.30 August-4-2013

System began testing within a senior in Ojai, California. At Home In Ojai is the most family oriented assisted living community in the Ojai valley. They are licensed for 48 beds, but the rooms are grouped in fours located in different sections so that one maintains the cozy feel of a home.

It has been demonstrated that Multisensory environments can help reduce agitation or those suffering with various forms of dimentia.

Marie Roth
Director of “At Home in Ojai”

“The aroma was great... as if you were in nature. We have a lot of people who are agitated... so if they have a program that is calming that would be good for them.”

“This would also be a great thing to have as an alternative to giving them drugs.”

Manny Roth
Co-owner and Resident of “At Home in Ojai”

“I will remember this; It was terrific Very comforting it eliminated any tensions I have, very relaxing, even spiritual I would say.”

Doug Nelson, Inventor and Manny Director discuss the possibilities!”

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BETA Testing for Seniors with “Special Needs”

Marie Roth continues, “Home in Ojai is a residential care center for the elderly and some of our residents tried it; and all of them said they had a great experience. It’s very relaxing and the aroma makes it very soothing... like your watching a movie without the visual... you just have the audio... feel the vibration. It’s a great experience.

Caregiver

“I think this will help everyone here. Most of our residents feel restless most of the time. It will relax their minds and muscles.”

“Actually the scent helped me a lot as I’m having difficulty breathing right now but it helped me soothed my throat.”

On the Web: http://MultisensorySystems.com

Email: http://multisensorysystems.com/?page_id=9
The USC Forum, “Memories of the Way We Were”, took place on June 22, 2013 at the Institute For Genetic Medicine Art Gallery, Keck School of Medicine, USC.

Discussion topics included Alzheimer’s/dementia research and treatment, music therapy for Alzheimer’s/dementia patients, caregiver support, the effects of cross-generational interaction (seniors and preschool children), and new technological therapy options.

Doug Nelson and Zubin Levy, co-founders of Multisensory Systems were invited to discussed the evolution of their technology and methodology at the forum. Images were projected providing evidence of the system’s successful BETA testing with various types of Special Needs individuals, including senior citizens at a retirement facility. It has been noted that the system greatly relieves agitation of dementia sufferers and caregivers have expressed the hope to need less medication with its use.

Multisensory technology previewed at USC public forum for Alzheimer’s and dementia

The presentation concluded with futuristic images of the next-generation multisensory system; one that has the addition of gentle and soothing motion.

Certificate of Recognition

The co-founders each received a certificate from the city of Los Angeles, Jose Huizar, Council member 14th District, in recognition of their “creative vision and exploration of new technological applications, to advance the therapy options in the treatment of conditions including Alzheimer’s disease and dementia.”

On the Web: http://MultisensorySystems.com

Email: http://multisensorysystems.com/?page_id=9
Robert Horsting Comments: “This really achieves all of the promise of peace and tranquility that many travelers of the 60’s and 70’s strove to achieve, but without the need of chemicals. The combination of sensory stimuli has an amazing transporting affect that is only limited by the imagination. The MultiSensory System seems to have boundless therapeutic applications. By adding the visual element, I could see this used to help people overcome phobias, such as fear of heights or agoraphobia.”

“E” ticket ride to the Magic Kingdom

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Experts Comment

Lynn Crandall
Director, USC IGM Art Gallery
Keck School of Medicine University of Southern California

“I see it as a where we were, where we are, where we’re going model. This project can serve to prevent and heal physical and social disease related to fear, anxiety, stress, loneliness, alienation. It has the potential to provide even deeper understanding of mind/body/spirit functionality as neurological studies provide more tools for empirical measurements. The more of us who process this experience, the more our conversations will open our minds to our common experiences and our individual differences. It provides hope that we could cross some barriers and become more mindful stewards of self, others and the planet.”

Visit their website:
http://keck.usc.edu/Research/Research_Institutes/Institute_for_Genetic_Medicine/IGM_Art_Gallery.aspx

The Institute for Genetic Medicine Art Gallery

The Institute for Genetic Medicine Art Gallery located at the University of Southern California, Keck School of Medicine, serves as an art-framed forum for open-minded, deliberative discussions on complex social issues that interface with the creative process and findings of research in molecular biology, health and social systems. Since 2000, the Gallery has offered a wide range of art exhibits and educational symposiums for student and community leaders on the USC Health Sciences Campus. The USC Institute for Genetic Medicine Art Gallery is a Member of the international Society for the Arts in Healthcare.

Concept image depicts MSS Portable System with real-time EEG Data projected on screen