

## 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.

## BETA Testing for Special Needs: Alpha Resource Center

### Key Alpha\_SB Staff



**Julie Badella**  
*Director of Program Services*  
18 years at Alpha, trained in Snoezelen. "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"

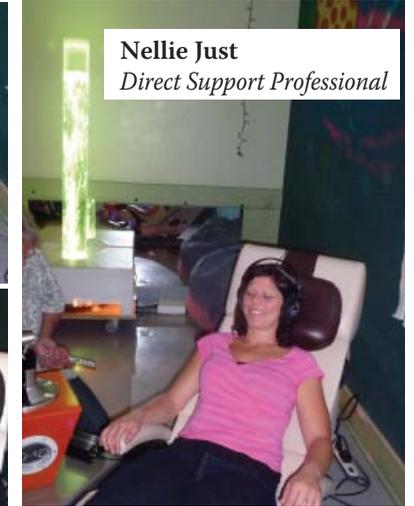
Julie continues, "When the staff get excited about the participants and what they are experiencing you know that it's very good... especially with people so limited in their mobility. You saw it on their faces. That was very valuable to them."



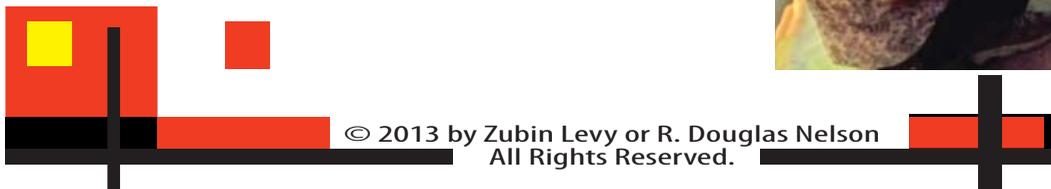
Doug Nelson, Inventor and Julie Badella, Director discuss the possibilities!



**Nellie Just**  
*Direct Support Professional*



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



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### 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."*

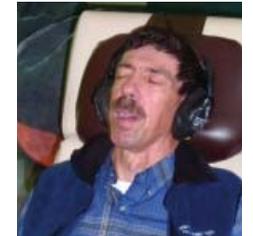
*"This (MSS) creates that little environment for them, their own personal space at home, or hospital, or retirement community where their ability to walk, their ability to go to places, is (virtually) available to them as they would want it to be. This is great... awesome."*



*"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."*



... A Million Dollar Smile

*"From seeing them do it... I really, really want them to do it again"*

Multisensory Stimulation System V1.30 August-4-2013

## Special Methods for Special People

## BETA Testing for Special Needs: Alpha Resource Center



*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 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.*

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## 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"

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.



*Assisted Living Facility, Elderly Care Facility, Retirement Home offering Alzheimers Care, Hospice and Respite Care.*

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



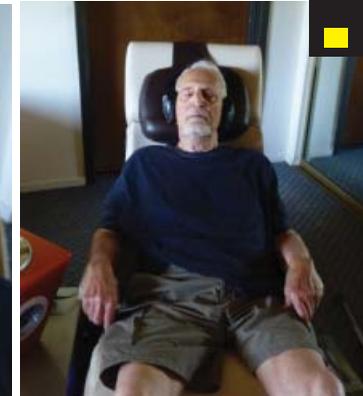
## BETA Testing for Special Needs: ▶ At Home In Ojai



**Marie Roth**  
 Director of "At Home in Ojai"  
*"Exciting, soothing."*

*"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!*

# BETA Testing for Seniors with "Special Needs"

## BETA Testing for Special Needs: ▶ At Home In Ojai

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."



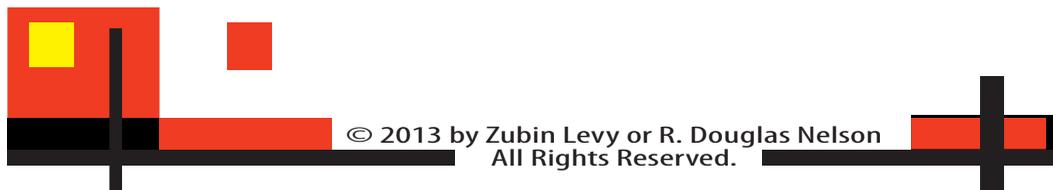
### Caregiver

*"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."*



Multisensory Stimulation System V1.30 August-4-2013



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

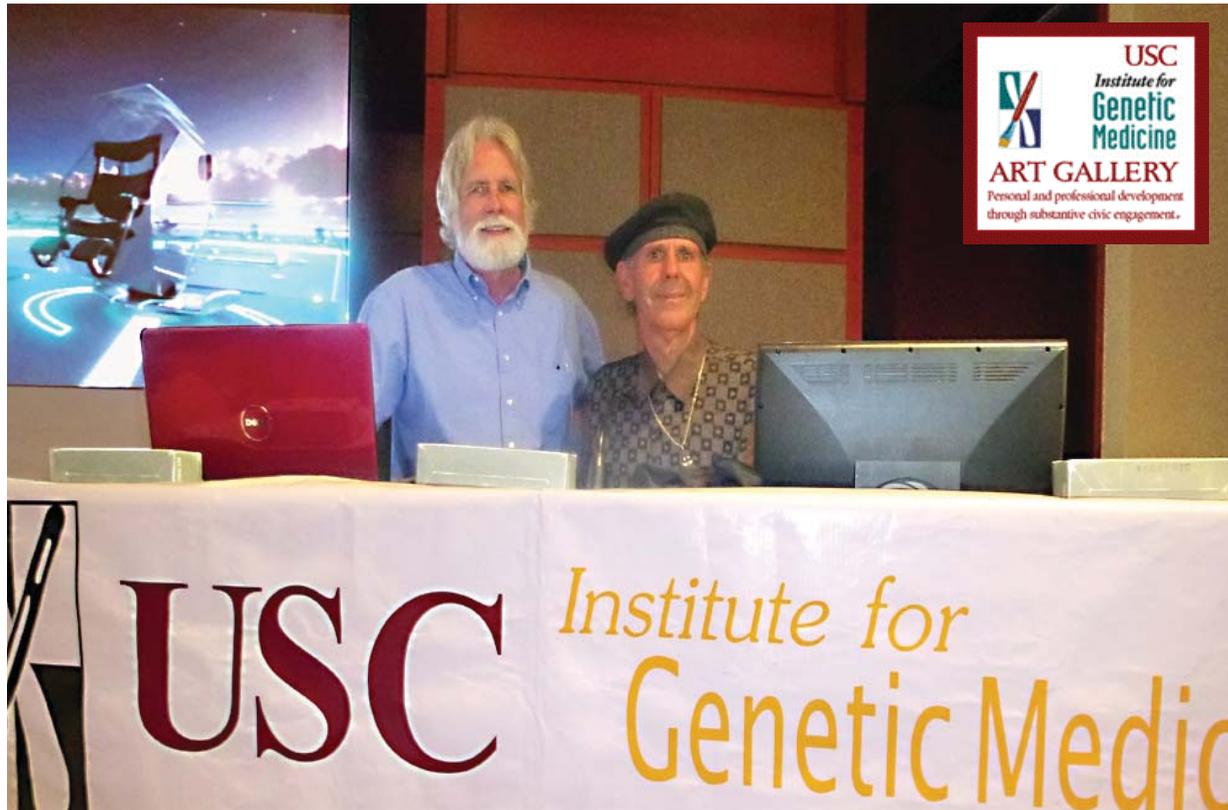
*The USC Forum, "Memories of the Way We Were," took place on June 22, 2013 at the Institute For Genetic Medicine Art Gallery, Keck School of Medicine, USC.*

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 discuss 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.

### 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."



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



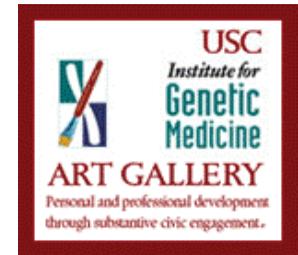
*Robert Hortsting, forum Steering Committee Chair, welcomes the attendees*

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



### MSS - Presentation

The final presentation of the day moved the forum into the realm of the future, as Douglas Nelson and Zubin Levy, Co-Founders of MultiSensory Systems, presented the genesis of their forward-thinking therapeutic device. The patented interactive, immersive system, which resembles a highly stylized reclining chair, integrates three-dimensional sound, aroma and full body vibration to help maintain psychological well-being and minimize stress. To enhance the versatility of the therapeutic applications, they also designed an optional visual imagery element. The audio tracks ranged from the relaxing sound of a downpour in a rain forest to the exhilarating force of a rocket blasting off into space, then melding into the ethereal sounds of Tuvan throat singing. The complexity of this journey of the senses was heightened by the combination of aromas, delivered in such a fine beam of essential oil vapors, which so closely simulated the freshness of a rainfall, that the only element missing from the fantasy was wet clothes. The demonstration was a hit for the two people invited to experience this journey firsthand. ■



*The Institute for Genetic Medicine Art Gallery*

### “E” ticket ride to the Magic Kingdom

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.”



## Lynn Crandall

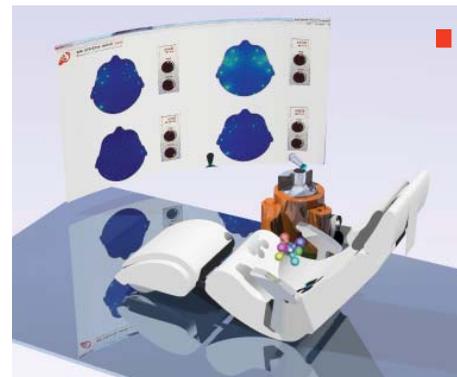
Director, USC IGM Art Gallery

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.”



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

## 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.



Visit their website:

[http://keck.usc.edu/Research/Research\\_Institutes/Institute\\_for\\_Genetic\\_Medicine/IGM\\_Art\\_Gallery.aspx](http://keck.usc.edu/Research/Research_Institutes/Institute_for_Genetic_Medicine/IGM_Art_Gallery.aspx)