

Red Stripe 'paws-ing' for health

Red Stripe is being proactive and is engaging its workforce in preventative health care and promoting their general well-being.

The company indicated in a press release that this action is in response to data from the Ministry of Health showing the increase in chronic illnesses. The company stated that it recognises that sickness-related absence from work represents a major problem for productivity and the Jamaican economy.

Utilising a holistic, multi-modal approach to drive participation and engagement, Red Stripe has integrated effective wellness and fitness solutions for its employees. Just recently, the company set aside an entire day for health with their annual health fair celebrated under the theme 'Paws for Your Health'.

The fair, which impacted over 400 employees and contractors, was aimed at motivating participants to make positive health behavioural changes. It also established extension agents to assist with ongoing health education and preventive health programmes that, in the long run, will contribute to decreased health-care costs associated with chronic illnesses. In addition to the yearly health fair, Red Stripe has an ongoing staff wellness club.

Source: Red Stripe

First drug for rare bone marrow disease

Jakafi (ruxolitinib) was recently approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration, the first drug approved to specifically treat patients with the bone marrow disease myelofibrosis.

Myelofibrosis is a disease in which the bone marrow is replaced by scar tissue resulting in blood cells being made in organs such as the liver and the spleen. This disease is marked by an enlarged spleen, anaemia, decreased white blood cells and platelets, and myelofibrosis-related symptoms. Symptoms include fatigue, abdominal discomfort, pain under the ribs, feeling full (satiety), muscle and bone pain, itching, and night sweats.

Jakafi, a pill taken two times a day, inhibits enzymes called JAK 1 and 2 (Janus Associated Kinase) that are involved in regulating blood and immunological functioning. Myelofibrosis is associated with the deregulation of JAK 1 and 2.

Source: The US Food and Drug Administration