Figure 6.14 Oxygen and Bacterial Growth. An illustration of the growth of bacteria with varying responses to oxygen. Each dot represents an individual bacterial colony within the agar or on its surface. The surface, which is directly exposed to atmospheric oxygen, will be aerobic. The oxygen content of the medium decreases with depth until the medium becomes anaerobic toward the bottom of the tube. The presence and absence of the enzymes superoxide dismutase (SOD) and catalase for each type are shown.

