Franc Forstnerič was born on 1 May 1958 in Ljubljana, Slovenia. He graduated in Mathematics from the University of Ljubljana in 1980 and obtained his PhD degree in Mathematics from the University of Washington in Seattle, Washington, USA in 1985. In the same year, he was employed by the University of Ljubljana as Assistant Professor (1986-89) and Associate Professor (1989-93) of Mathematics. In 1991 he took the position of Visiting Professor at the University of Wisconsin-Madison in USA, where he became Associate Professor in 1993 and Full Professor in 1994. In 1994 he was also named Full Professor of Mathematics at the University of Ljubljana, where he is currently employed. During 2007-2009 and 2011-2013 he served as the dean of Faculty of Mathematics and Physics.

Forstnerič spent protracted periods as a visiting researcher and guest lecturer at several universities and research institutes worldwide. He was invited guest lecturer at over a hundred international conferences, and he participated on scientific committees of over thirty conferences. As a reviewer and expert panel member, he participated in the evaluation of scientific projects at the National Science Foundation in USA, the Swedish Science Foundation, the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, and the science agencies of the Czech Republic, Italy, Montenegro, Poland, and Switzerland.

Forstnerič achieved his most notable scientific results tackling problems of complex analysis and geometry: boundary regularity of proper holomorphic maps, polynomial convexity, proper holomorphic maps and embeddings into Euclidean spaces and other complex manifolds, holomorphic automorphisms of Euclidean spaces and their applications, construction of noncritical holomorphic functions on Stein manifolds and Stein spaces, the Oka principle and its application to complex geometry, and nonlinear holomorphic approximation theory. Following a decade of intensive research in the Oka-Grauert-Gromov theory, Forstnerič introduced in the literature a new class of complex manifolds, called Oka manifolds, and he presented a comprehensive treatment of this subject in his monograph *Stein Manifolds and Holomorphic Mappings* published by Springer-Verlag in 2011, with the second edition in 2017. Oka manifolds have since become a standard notion in complex analytic geometry. The 2020 Mathematical Subject Classification introduced the new subclass *32Q56 Oka principle and Oka manifolds*. In the last decade he also made significant contributions to the theory of minimal surfaces and complex contact geometry. He authored or coauthored 155 scientific publications, including two books published by Springer. Several of his papers appeared in leading mathematical journals including the *Annals of Math.*, *Acta Math.*, *Inventiones Math.*, *Duke Math.* J., *Amer. J. Math.*, *Memoirs AMS*, *J. Europ. Math. Soc.*, *J. Math. Pures Appl.*, *Analysis & PDE*, *Math. Ann.*, *Geometry & Topology*, and others. He is a highly cited scientist in his field. His research has been supported over the last four decades by various funding agencies. In 2022, he received a 5-year ERC Advanced Grant 2023-2027 financed by the European Union.

Forstnerič received several prizes and recognitions for his scientific work. During his PhD studies he was a Fulbright Scholar and a recipient of a Sloan Predoctoral Fellowship. He is the 1988 recipient of the Boris Kidrič prize of the Republic of Slovenia. During his tenure at the University of Wisconsin in Madison, he received a Vilas Associates Award. He was elected Associate Member of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts in 1999 and was promoted to Full Member in 2005. During 2017-2020, he was Secretary of the SASA Section of Mathematical, Physical, Chemical, and Technical Sciences, and since June 2020 he is the Academy Secretary General. In 2019, he received the Stefan Bergman Prize from the American Mathematical Society. He was an invited plenary speaker at the 8th European Congress of Mathematicians 8ECM in 2021. He is scheduled to appear as invited speaker in the Analysis section at the International Congress of Mathematicians ICM 2026 in Philadelphia, USA, in July 2026.